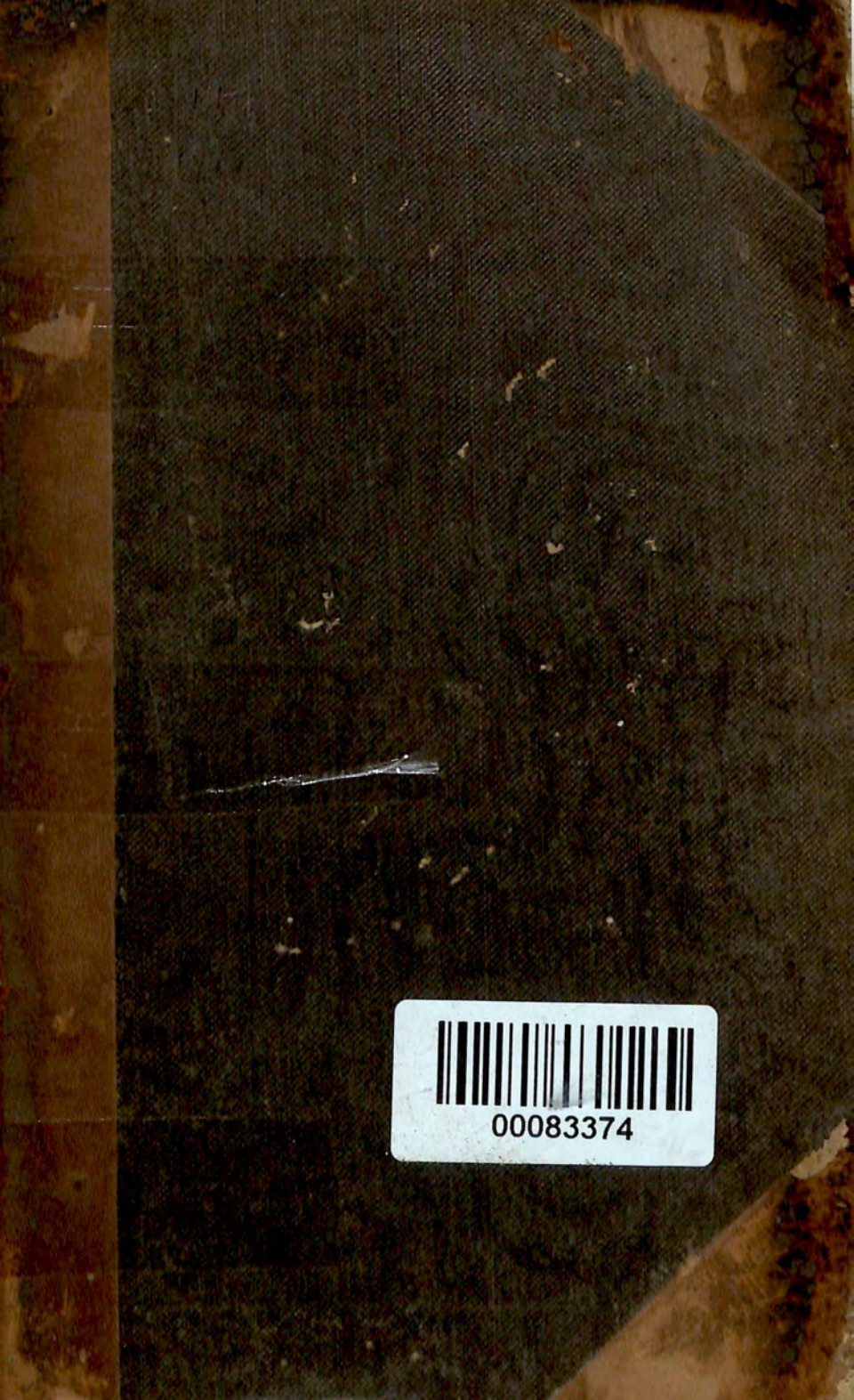
00083374

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
Royal Asiatic Society.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 06 February, 2016

A

RESIDENCE

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

F. Hervé del.t

J.W. Giles Lithog.r

KING OTHO.

London Published by Whittaker & Co.s Ave Maria Lane

A. Ducôtes Lithog.r 70. St. Martins Lane.

RESIDENCE

IN

TURKEY & GREECE,

VOL. I.

BY

F. HERVÉ.

A RESIDENCE

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY;

WITH NOTES OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH

BULGARIA, SERVIA, HUNGARY,

AND

THE BALKAN.

83374

BY

FRANCIS HERVÉ, Esq.

ILLUSTRATED BY TINTED LITHOGRAPHIC ENGRAVINGS,

FROM DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

WHITTAKER & Co. AVE MARIA LANE.

1837.

914.95
Her/Res
83374
ref.
915.61

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL LONGFORD.

My Lord,

Although the zealous attachment which your Lordship has ever evinced for your own country, has hitherto confined your observations and travels to its shores, yet I flatter myself that you may find more interest in the following pages, than those, who (yielding to the prevailing mania now raging with our countrymen) wander over foreign realms before they are acquainted with the beauties and charms of their own. But after having acquired a knowledge of that which is most estimable in our native land, the more extended the range of our journey through life, the more enlarged becomes our share of information, and the more enhanced

is our value for our earliest home; I may, therefore, presume that the period will arrive when your Lordship may be tempted to explore more distant scenes; and as the subjoined chapters record the observations gleaned in the traverse of many countries, proud should I be, could I dare hope that aught which I have stated could induce you ever to visit the nations I have attempted to describe; and should the result of my researches and remarks now offered to your Lordship and the public, afford you any information or amusement for a leisure hour, I shall not regret the time and labour which have been expended in the work which is humbly inscribed to your Lordship,

By your very grateful and sincere friend,

And obedient servant,

F. HERVÉ.

Brooks Grove Cottage, Halstead, Kent,
September, 1837.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Page

The Author's Bad Habits—Want of Order—Proneness to err—Departure from Marseilles by an Austrian Vessel—Deceived by the Captain—Compensated by the Passengers—Bad Accommodations in Merchant Ships—A Sea Cook—A Cabin Boy—Inhabited Berth—Arrival at Malta—Its Costumes—Extreme Heat—Beverly Hotel—Re-embark—Slow Progress—Arrival at Napoli—Its Inhabitants 1

CHAPTER II.

Court of King Otho—Of whom composed—Greek Old Ladies—His Majesty—His Manners and Appearance, &c.—Bavarians—Their Demeanour—The President—His Consistency—Policy of the Allies—Countess D'Armansperg—A Troublesome Ambassadress—Receives a Lesson—Her Husband—Revenge—Mavrocordato—His Intimacy with Byron—Anecdotes concerning him—M. Maurer at Athens—Discord at its Acmé—Bavaria interferes—A Diplomatist—An Awkward Dinner—Discomfited Party—Intriguers Dismissed . . . 23

CHAPTER III.

Page

Young Ladies at the Court of Otho—Servile Devotion to His Majesty—Tremendous Accident and Bloodshed—Fancy Ball—A General Rejected—Bavarian Beauty—Greek ditto—Menagerie Royale—Animated Individual—His Valour—A Vaunting Prussian Baron—His Manœuvres and Retreat—His Audacity—A Game of Chess—The Baron's Eloquence—A Drawn Battle—A Greek Prince—His Conduct, and that of His Son—Prince Ipsilanti, his Capture and Death 50

CHAPTER IV.

Poverty of the Bavarians—Their Economy, and Great Appetites—Their Talent for Music—Total Deficiency of the Greeks—Educated Greeks—Capo D'Istrias—His Assassin—And his Execution—Petro Bey—The Mainotes—Vindictive Customs—Never entirely conquered—Awkward Attempt by the Bavarians—Their total Defeat—Their Materiel saved by the Greeks—Newspaper Misrepresentations—Miaulis, the Greek Admiral—Canaris, the Brulotier—His Extraordinary Courage—Greek Navy—Fabvier—His Devotion to the Greek Cause—General Gordon—His Zeal and Perseverance—Colatti—His Stern Exterior—Greek Warriors—Their Courage—Greek Diplomatist—His Forecast and Calculating Powers . . . 72

CHAPTER V.

Travelling in Greece—Appearance of the Country—Bad Roads—Epidaurus—Comfortless Quarters—The Rats—Wet Muddy Floor—A Pig—An Egg—Greek Rascality—Picturesque Ruins—Scarcity of Provisions—Fortunate Supply—Rough Sea—Egina—The Town and Environs—Greek Captain—His Noble Exterior, and Gallant Conduct—Greek Hospitality—Admiration of Byron—Ignorance of Greek Females—Put to Sea again—Tedious Progress—Land Travelling advised 101

CHAPTER VI.

Page

Athens—Its Imposing Appearance—Different Styles of Architecture—Ruins of Various Epochs—Numerous interesting Objects—Midshipman's Freak—Conservator of Antiquities—His Mistakes—Ancient Costume—Rapid Visit of some Englishmen—Russian Consul—His unbounded Hospitality—Society at Athens—Claimants of the Government Lands in Greece—Encouragement not given to Settlers—Dearth of Trees in Greece—Extravagance of the Government—Changing the National Costume—Greeks hard to govern—Their Indolent Habits—Quarrel between an Italian and Greek—Produce of the Country 128

CHAPTER VII.

A Ball at Napoli di Romania—The Characters there assembled—Immense Heat and Crowd—Greek Economy—Curious looking Set of Persons—An Irishman's Mistake—Prince Saxe Altemberg—The President's Daughters—Elaborate Education—Sonata on the Pianoforte—A Greek Beauty—The Modern Helen—A Slit Ear—A Chief in his Lair—His Attendants—His Mistake and Ostentation—Diplomatist's Receptions—Unjust Assertions in Newspapers—Their Misrepresentations — An Editor feasted everywhere — His Gratitude and Revenge—A Formidable Captain—His Overflowing Candour—Conscious Weakness of the Bavarian Government—Attack on a Lady's Reputation 150

CHAPTER VIII.

A Greek Wedding—Treatment of Servants—A String of Beads recommended—Superstition—Street Scenes—Coup de Soleil—Hardships endured by Philhellenists—Unfortunate Enthusiast—His amiable Qualities—Gallant Conduct—His Death—Greek Servants—French Troops attacked by the

Page

Greeks—Repulsed and Punished—Audacious Theft—The Robber killed— Greek Peasants' Ideas on Thieving—Their Love of Plunder, and Cruelty—A Greek at his Toilet—Reluctance to pay their Debts—Mode of doing so—Greek Friendship—Their Aptness in Cheating—Generals Church and Pisa—Their Relative Positions 181

CHAPTER IX.

Scenes at Court—Its Frequenters—Philosophy—Court Conversations—Diplomatists—A Poking Gentleman—Lessons on Listening — Russian Diplomacy— English Attachés— Their Accomplishments and Information— Extraordinary Appointment—Diplomatic Institutions—Russian Aggrandisement—Guarded Policy—Antipathy to Opponents of Capo D'Istrias — Swedish Chargé d'Affaires—His Talents and Career—Tyrins—Its extreme Antiquity—Argos—Its Singular Cathedral—Tomb of Agamemnon—Gates of Mycenæ— Pausanias—Immense Waste of Unproductive Land—Snakes —Scorpions—Bedsteads—Dogs, Encounters with them— How to drive them off—Nocturnal Rambles—Closed Gates of Napoli—Greek Customers—Buying English Articles— Ideas of Painting—Extraordinary Miniature—Greek Costumes—Modern Greeks, a mixed Race—Their Personal Appearance—Turkish Admiral—Physical Strength of the Greeks—Heat of the Climate—Horses for Hire—Greeks good Horsemen—Prisoner's Escape 211

CHAPTER X.

Antiquity of Napoli—Its Unhealthy Position—Hints for Colonists—Prices of Provisions, and Land—Mode of Purchasing it— Indecision of Government—Its Propensity to blunder— Mortality amongst the Bavarians—Disaffection of the Greeks —Colocotroni—His Trial—Bavarian Equity—Their Agitating Freak—Their appointing an Ambassador, and their dis-

Page

appointing an Ambassador—Promenade at Napoli—Bavarian Band—Greeks fond of Dress—The Ladies have recourse to Art—Their Bad Taste—Religious Feelings—Their abominable Names—The Author nearly steals a Hat—Departure from Napoli—Modern Greek Language—Proceedings at Syra—Fraudulent Practices of Consuls—Difficulty of convicting them—Intentions to that Effect—An Exiled Count—His Contempt for Mediocre Beings—A Mistake of the Sardinian Consul—The Count's Indignation—Glasses of Water for Sale—Jackass for Dinner—A Gormandiser—His wonderful Gastronomic Execution—His Prudent Precautions—Different Opinions on the Greeks—Remarks upon them by flying Travellers, and their sapient Conclusions—Horrible Outrage—Tragic Termination—Murderer taken, tried, and executed 268

CHAPTER XI.

Smyrna—Arguée's—Population of the City—Bournabat—Its Delightful Residences—Its Beautiful Gardens — Its Gay Parties—Turkish and Armenian Quarter—Antique Remains —Pleasing Associations—Aorja—An Arabian Camp—Asses of Smyrna—Flooring an Englishman—Strange Distinctions —Untaught Ladies — Characters of the Levanters—The Casin—Troublesome Midshipmen—Their Comical Pranks— Disturbed Old Gentleman—An Awful Personage—Enforces his Authority—A Hoax—Casin Balls—One given by French Officers—Difficulty to keep Order — Threatened Duel—Devotion to Play—Greek Casin—Illiberal Exclusion from Society—Trade of Card Playing—An Elopement— The Parties Concerned. 309

CHAPTER XII.

Society at Smyrna—Flattery of Strangers—Their Admiration expected—Churlishness of the Author—Smyrniot Gentry

Page

compared to some classes in London, but something worse —Females most numerous—Ever panting for Husbands— A Disappointment—An Imaginary Conquest—The Supposed Victim—A Lady's Annoying Powers—A Merchant Routed— An Elderly Maiden—Her Embellishing—Arrival Extraordinary at the Custom-House—An Accident—A Fellow Boarder —His Colloquial Powers—Hoaxes the Smyrniots—His Contempt for them—That which constitutes the Charms of Society—Anecdote—Disagreeable Intruders—Sharing with one's Neighbour—Successful Manœuvre—An Offensive Odour—How to get rid of it—Persevering Audacity—Ultimately Triumphant—An Able Arguer—Consummate Address—An Artful Design—Its Villany developed—Its Object frustrated—Mehemet Ali—Turkish Women—Turkish Porters—Personal Chastisement—Greek Passiveness— Singular Costume—Armenian Lady—Her Costume—Gaming Parties—Mysterious Means of Getting Rich—Young Ladies' Indispositions—A Prodigy—Hopeless Attachment —Fatal Result—An Upright Merchant 346

ILLUSTRATIONS.

VOL. I.

PAGE

Title . . . . . .

Otho, King of Greece . . . . . *(Frontispiece)* . .

Mavrocordato 42

Prince Mavromichali, Petro Bey, Prince of the Mainotes 78

Canaris 90

Argos 234

Colocotroni 279

A

RESIDENCE

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

CHAPTER I.

THE AUTHOR'S BAD HABITS—WANT OF ORDER—PRONENESS TO ERR—DEPARTURE FROM MARSEILLES BY AN AUSTRIAN VESSEL—DECEIVED BY THE CAPTAIN—COMPENSATED BY THE PASSENGERS—BAD ACCOMMODATIONS IN MERCHANT SHIPS—A SEA COOK—A CABIN BOY—INHABITED BERTH—ARRIVAL AT MALTA—ITS COSTUMES—EXTREME HEAT—BEVERLY HOTEL—RE-EMBARK—SLOW PROGRESS—ARRIVAL AT NAPOLI—ITS INHABITANTS.

It is the usual practice for authors to prefix some description of preface or introduction to their works, and it is *as* usual for readers never to peruse them, therefore, being particularly anxious that *my* prefatory remarks should fix the attention of the public, I have thus endeavoured to engraft my preliminary information on the body of my

work, hoping thereby to cajole my readers into perusing that which they would otherwise pass over; but however I may have thus deceived the public, it has been with the most honest intention, wishing in some degree to apprize my readers of what the following pages will consist, that they may not risk losing their time and patience in the perusal of a collection of chapters which can neither afford them instruction nor entertainment, if their taste be such as can never accord with the very loose and desultory manner in which the following unconnected reminiscences are written. I therefore entreat those readers who are attached to any thing in the shape of order, or system, at once to shut the book, as I never could in any transactions through life arrive at that most desirable of all talents, arrangement. I may almost state that I was born an artist, beginning to wield a pencil even before I had quitted my female attire; but know not why I could never acquire any other artistlike quality than that of a total want of order, which has characterised the whole of my progress.

I must also crave pardon for a sort of restlessness, which will occasion me now and then suddenly to traverse the continent, perhaps from

Constantinople to Calais, or leap from the Archipelago to the other extremity of the Mediterranean, from thence cross the English or Irish channel, as caprice may dictate, with a rapidity infinitely surpassing any travelling yet performed by steam boats, steam carriages, or even balloons; and above all, I must beg of the reader never to expect that because I set out for any given place, that I should probably arrive at the stated destination; for such has ever been my uncalculating want of foresight, that even by that most straightforward mode of travelling, the stage coach, with a genius peculiar to myself, for erring and straying from the right path, I have contrived to enter or mount the wrong vehicle, and after having proceeded some miles on a false tack, have at length discovered that I was at fault, by the conversation of the passengers, or some other circumstance, which has happily occurred to enlighten me in my devious course; and in embarking on board a vessel bound for a certain port, however the ship may arrive at its wished-for harbour, it by no means follows that I should arrive with it.

On the 6th of August I started from Marseilles on board an Austrian brig, which cleared out for

Constantinople; my passport was regularly made out for that city, my passage paid, my baggage and myself safely shipped, and each assigned their respective quarters, and in fact every thing was arranged according to the right regular order of things, without any confusion, or any thing left behind, very contrary to my usual practice; but my errant star still prevailed. Having understood that an English family had taken their passage by the same vessel, I repeatedly asked the captain if I could have access at pleasure to the cabin, suspecting that it might have been exclusively engaged by the other passengers; to which he replied that I was at full liberty to enter it whenever I thought proper. Thus assured, I went on board in full confidence, and it being night time, and a good orderly retiring hour, betook myself to my bed, which was contained in a hole commonly called a berth, and was for a long time kept awake by the gnawing of the rats and mice, whom I had strong reasons to suspect had made an invasion on my sea stores; but very early in the morning I was awakened by sounds of another nature, that of the above mentioned English family coming on board, and who on entering the cabin very soon

began to display certain alarming symptoms of exclusive possession, not only by their words, but by their deeds, such as nailing up curtains, forming partitions, &c. I had not lain very easy prior to this event, and at this discovery was still more uneasy than before; but being of opinion that it is better to face a perplexity, than to remain long in suspense, I arose, and on the deck found General G——, who, with his lady, Mr. Robertson (his secretary), and servants, composed the family destined to be my fellow passengers. I immediately presented myself to the General, and entered forthwith on the subject which most interested me; and he very candidly informed me that he had made an engagement, specifically giving him a right to the cabin, to the exclusion of any other passenger, offering at the same time to shew me his agreement in writing confirming his assertion; but I needed no farther evidence, to convince me that I had been out-generaled, although I had applied long before the captain had heard of any prospect of having other passengers; but this declaration of the general's was accompanied by the most polite invitation, not only to enter the cabin at discretion, but also to join their little circle *en*

famille, which proved to me so agreeable, that I soon ceased to regret that I had been out-manœuvred, and to feel more pleasure in my defeat, than others have sometimes experienced in a victory.

Thus circumstances hitherto combined to soften the disagreeables inseparably associated in my ideas with a voyage in an indifferent Austrian merchant vessel. Our captain and crew were Illyrian; and as to our ship, it appeared to be built in every possible manner so as to give permission to every other to pass it; nor were appearances in this instance deceiving, for every sail we descried astern, we very soon had to look for a-head, and very soon after to lose sight of altogether. In fact, the first time I went on board her, it appeared to me that I was a quarter of an hour getting round her stern; and on gazing at her I often thought that the architect by whom she was constructed, must certainly have been all the time thinking of a tub, which she resembled in her proportions more than any vessel I ever saw before, or since; indeed, she had for me but one recommendation, that of being the only ship bound for Constantinople.

Perhaps it is my bad taste, but there is always something disagreeable to me in the odour of

a merchant vessel; but this in which I was doomed to become an inmate, appeared to me pre-eminent in that respect; to such a degree did it surpass all others in that offensive quality, that before I could get to sleep I was obliged to bathe my pillow with most plentiful ablutions of lavender water; but this was not always efficacious, for the aperture containing my couch was most unfortunately situated, being next to a cupboard, the contents of which I shall not attempt to analyse; all I know is, that generally about midnight there came the cook, who, like an evil spirit, only appeared at that dark hour, and then to awaken me by unlocking this fatal closet, which emitted so powerful an effluvia, that I could only compare it to the opening of Pandora's box. I have always made it a rule when on a voyage to avoid, if possible, ever seeing the cook, lest his appearance should have a baneful influence on my appetite, nor did I now feel inclined to depart from my usual practice; but in this instance his presence was forced upon me, and his personal endowments made too permanent an impression on my mind for their ever being effaced from my memory, or indeed to deny him a place in these pages. He

had obtained the cognomen of Apollo from my fellow passengers, why I know not, except for his being possessed of every quality the reverse of the deity's, after whom he was named; certainly it must be admitted that I saw him to every disadvantage, awakening me as he did in the middle of the night, bearing a half extinguished taper, whilst performing his nocturnal vigils at the offensive cupboard. His hands, probably from a long abstinence from water, were the colour of mahogany; his hair, which appeared as if had been cemented together by some unctuous substance, hung down, long, straight, and stiff upon his greasy jacket; but still there was something that shed a sort of lustre upon his features, and that I believe to have arisen from his washing his face with oil, which remained constantly unwiped thereupon, his skin shining to that degree, as to reflect the gloomy rays of his melancholy lamp, thereby adding to his luminary a double and a doubtful light. Thanks to the Fates, I had not to partake of aught which had passed through his corrupted fingers, the General's own servant preparing whatever was produced at our repasts. Our cabin boy was also named by the same parties, and doubtless with as

much reason as the former, being designated Cupid, which appellation so pleased the crew, that, though I am convinced they had not the least idea of its meaning, they never addressed him by any other during the passage, and I have no doubt but that it will accompany him, and rest with him on his return to Illyria.

The exclusive letting of the cabin was not the only instance in which the captain deceived me, having assured me that he should proceed as speedily as possible to Constantinople, merely touching *en passant* at Malta, where he should make no delay whatever; instead of which, he had made an agreement with the General to convey him to Napoli de Romania: and I shall presume that my reader is too good a geographer to render it necessary for me to explain how far distant that town lies from my intended course. At length I began to listen to the very eloquent persuasion of the General and his family, to relinquish my intentions of pursuing my voyage to Turkey, in favour of a visit to the still more classic territory of Greece; and indeed listening was soon followed by consenting, renouncing for the time being, the long cherished wish of ex-

ploring the Ottoman realms. It was affirmed, on our leaving Marseilles, that we should in four or five days arrive at Malta; but, alas! the sixth had appeared, and we were still slowly dragging our weary, tedious way, no land in sight, and with the prospect before us of the same insipidity for several days to come; still the murmurs of Mrs. G—— and myself met with little sympathy, being always answered by Mr. Robertson that we ought to think ourselves most extravagantly lucky: whilst the General undertook the office of counsel for the old tub (for such we designated our lumbering vessel), stating that those scents of which I so bitterly complained, were nothing more than must always arise from the quantity of different provisions ever necessary for the ship's crew, of which a certain portion might become stale, and produce an unpleasant odour, but that this would be the case in most merchant vessels, and that in fact we were not worse off than we might have anticipated.

However rational this defence might be, it afforded but little consolation to my olfactory nerves; and another evil arose, which tended to weaken the cause he advocated, and much to augment the disgust which I had already felt

for the abominable brig, to which fate had consigned me. Discontented as I might have been with the den appropriated as my dormitory, it met with the thorough approbation of others, being unfortunately for me most numerously inhabited by a species of ruby coloured insect, which delicacy to my readers forbids me to mention too explicitly; and yet why should I not, when ladies wear pelisses, ribbons, &c., of the colour named after these little forbidden beings? only forsooth with affected modesty they must substitute the French term, as giving a somewhat less shock to fastidious ears. But be it farther known, that there are two descriptions of these offensive reptiles, the one of a volatile, light, lively disposition, whilst the other, on the contrary, is of a slow, sluggish, heavy temperament; and it is to the latter that I more particularly allude, which assailed me with such unrelenting fury, that at length, unwilling to devote more of my precious blood in so ignoble a warfare, I decided on a precipitate retreat, and accordingly left them complete masters of the field. Yet before I could thus wholly give up the comfort of a bed, I could not resist casting "one longing, lingering, look

behind;" but there beheld nought that could quicken my regret, seeing, as I did, the little red wretches, some crawling, and others skipping about the sheets like lambs in a meadow. I therefore ordered the bed clothes to be taken and well shaken, and spread on the deck, where I afterwards slept, having no other canopy than that of the heavens. We moved slowly on for five days without seeing land, and without any remarkable event occurring, except one morning that Mrs. G. screamed out to me that one of my claret tinted enemies had been found in my bag of biscuits, and on another occasion that a mouse had got into the decanter, and there found a watery grave. At length after eleven days from our quitting Marseilles, we arrived at Malta.

It is not my intention to fatigue my readers with local descriptions, which are often more tiresome than amusing, but I cannot pass over a spot so interesting without adverting to the deep impression which it made on my mind. Hitherto, in my wanderings through the British dominions, and France, I had seen little variety of costume, being still within the regions of coats and waistcoats; but here all was foreign to me, the dress of the

men being a singular *mélange* of the Italian and Spanish, the black cap pending half way down the back, the little striped cloak or scarf slung carelessly over one shoulder, the trim jacket, bedecked with innumerable ornamental buttons, altogether formed a picturesque figure quite new to me. The women were no less remarkable, enveloped as they were wholly in black silk, hooded over the head and brought round in front, mantilla fashion; the houses, with their curious trelissed balconies, from behind which many a dark eye is seen peeping from beneath raven black hair, giving an interesting mystery, to which the imagination lends a beauty, though a closer inspection would bereave the charm, as here "'tis distance lends enchantment to the view." The streets have a very interesting appearance, so many of the palaces of the former knights remaining, though now appropriated to various purposes, but still lending their pristine grandeur to dignify the city. The interior of the church of St. John is magnificent, most rich and beautiful Mosaic pavements representing the arms of the most celebrated heroes who had signalised themselves in upholding that chivalric institution, which has now no other

vestige left than the records of its deeds. There are many other objects well worth the observing traveller's notice; but as there are so many works giving the most accurate accounts of all that is here either beautiful, or remarkable, I shall attempt no farther description, which, if correct, could only be a repetition of that which has been already stated by other authors; I shall therefore terminate by observing one circumstance which much surprised me: walking out at night with Mr. Robertson, I was astonished to find so great a proportion of the population sleeping on the ground in the streets on mattrasses, counterpanes, rugs, &c., so that some caution was necessary to thread one's course without treading on the sleepers who lined either side of the street; this was on account of the excessive heat, which, judging from myself, I should indeed say, rendered it impossible to sleep except in the open air. But notwithstanding the extreme sultriness, such was the enterprising spirit of Mrs. G., that she would see every thing of interest that the city contained, whilst the General being already familiar with every object worth notice, prudently preferred repose: it therefore devolved on me to

accompany this heroine in viewing the lions of the place, and I was ashamed to acknowledge how much I was overcome by the heated atmosphere, whilst a female supported it without a murmur; indeed I had supposed that I had been formed of iron, having been less affected by excesses of weather than persons in general, but I now found that the most solid flesh will melt, and was not sorry when informed there was nothing more of any interest to be seen, so that we could return to the inn to rest and inactivity. Fortunately for me, the country possessed apparently very few objects that were at all inviting; indeed I could only compare what I saw to a stone mason's yard, therefore was I spared the fatigue of rural excursions; the white rocky soil being totally unvaried by any green spot, the traveller looked around in vain for the slightest shelter. After having passed two days at Malta we departed, and I was absolutely glad to see the old tub again, not only on account of the inconvenience from the oppression of the intense heat, but also from the quarters where we were stationed being much too expensive for my economical habits. The Beverly Hotel where we sojourned

is certainly worthy of the attention of those travellers whose purses are as elastic as the occasion may demand, as their accommodations are of the best order; and I must do them the justice to observe, that what I found excessively dear, the General found excessively cheap, leaving the reader to account for the difference of opinion on this subject, between the man of thousands a year, and he that has something less than nothing a year.

On re-embarking I gladly welcomed the sea breeze, and in a few days we were in sight of the mountains of the Morea; but had great difficulty in making way through the passage, between the Isle of Cerigo and the main land, though always consoled by the General's assuring us that any wind would advance us as soon as we were through the strait, blow from what quarter it would; but when we did arrive at this spot of promised accommodation, I suppose it was some new patent wind which contrived to blow, for certain it was that we made no progress, when Mrs. G. and myself had the malice to remind the General of his remark, observing that the winds were not quite so subservient to our wishes as he had flattered us they would be

Previous to replying, the wary General looked all round as if to invoke the aid of Boreas, but finding but little hope of an ally in that quarter like an able tactician, shifted his ground, and, endeavoured to maintain his position by assuring us that we were still advancing, and bidding us take our observation from two given points on the shore, remarking how a stated object in the vessel would appear, by closely watching, to near the one, and distance the other. I paid strict attention to his directions, and very soon my opinion was surrendered at discretion, to his superior discernment, and above all to his long experience in maritime affairs; but Mrs. G. with that pertinacity so frequent with her sex, vowed that no one should ever convince her of aught but such as ocular evidence could confirm; and pointing to a cape a head of us, vowed she would not believe that we were moving forward until she could see it from the cabin windows. The General seemed partly satisfied with the adroit manner in which he had repelled our attacks; but remaining still another day tossed about in the same place, began to lose all patience, and to execrate the old tub, declaring that she was only fit to chop up for fire

wood. The question was even mooted of our landing at Cerigo, and there remaining until the weather improved, the General promising to furnish our table with a plentiful supply of quails; to this plan I decidedly objected, and the wind coming gently to assist my arguments, it was determined to keep out at sea, and in a few days we entered the Gulph of Napoli, and on the first of September anchored under its walls.

As soon as I landed I found myself surrounded by the most picturesque groups, consisting of persons dressed in the most fantastic and brilliant costumes. Instead of the every day looking custom house officers which I had ever met with before, here they were fine dignified looking fellows with black mustachios, bare, sun burnt necks, richly embroidered jackets, white flowing fostanellas (a sort of garment resembling the kilts as worn by the Highlanders), and such an endless variety in colours, ornaments, arms, &c., that at first I felt quite bewildered with the total novelty of the scene, and thought it must be either some theatrical representation, or some extravagant dream, which deluded me, but from these visionary flights I was soon recalled to dull reality by the annoying matter

of fact sort of question of, "Sir, the keys of your trunks." How annihilating was this to all my sublime inspirations! and thus suddenly awakened from all my bright illusions, from the first impulse I was about passively to obey, when Mr. Robertson expostulated with the officers, and I was in this instance exempted from the tormenting ceremony of having my effects tumbled over at the searcher's pleasure, and suffered to proceed uninterruptedly to Bruno's Hotel, and in my progress every object that met my eye appeared different to aught which I had ever before beheld. The streets, the churches, the houses, and all their buildings had a something in their construction which was new to me; and as for their women, oh, ye Gods, "what a falling off was there!" My ideas of Grecian beauty had been so exalted by the poet and the sculptor, that I had expected to meet scarce any but angels and syrens at every step and turn, instead of which, they struck me as being some unfortunate maniacs who had by some chance escaped from their keepers, as I appeal to all my reasonable readers if there be not a degree of madness, in the summer season, in the burning climate of Greece, to dress in shawls, velvets, and

heavy cloths trimmed with furs, add to which turbans puffed out to such extravagant dimensions as no rational being in any civilised country could think of wearing, without she were determined to astonish every passer by; and not content with the extraordinary appearance of these over be-puffed head-dresses, they must stick a quantity of real flowers in them, with so little regard either to form, colour, or assortment, that one might reasonably suppose they were all acting the part of Crazy Jane. Nor were their personal charms by any means calculated to compensate for these extravaganza. Their eyes are generally considered fine; but I should say the expression was harsh, mostly very dark, and surmounted by a pair of man's eyebrows: the mouth and nose being equally heavy, the countenance has a masculine appearance; and as to their complexions, one might imagine that they stained themselves with tobacco juice. Their heads are naturally large, the effect of which they increase by their outrageous manner of adorning them. Their stature is mostly very short, and their waists generally rival in thickness the rest of their person; but they are frequently so constructed as to appear much taller when sitting than standing.

What the French call *tournure* could not be expected from the little communication they have had with polished nations; but nature has prevented any possibility of hoping that even education could confer elegance of deportment, as what possible grace can ever be produced from a large head stuck upon a little dumpy woman? The total want of symmetry observable in their proportions may be physically accounted for. Seven-eighths of their lives which are not spent in sleep, are passed by them sitting on their heels huddled up upon their sofas; and this constant unnatural contraction has doubtless much influence upon their figures, not having those advantages which a proper degree of exercise affords in giving strength and elasticity to the form, so conducive to health and grace; as those whose occupations doom them to preserve a cramped posture, ever display a degree of awkwardness in walking, and in fact in all their movements. I am the more convinced of this system of inertness in the Greek women being the cause of the gracelessness of their figures, by observing how much it is the reverse with the men, who are generally active, though restless and indolent

where application is required, but are undoubtedly a fine hardy race, not remarkably tall, but more strongly built, as regards their chest and limbs, perhaps than any other nation in Europe.

CHAPTER II.

COURT OF KING OTHO—OF WHOM COMPOSED—GREEK OLD LADIES—HIS MAJESTY—HIS MANNERS AND APPEARANCE, ETC. BAVARIANS—THEIR DEMEANOUR—THE PRESIDENT—HIS CONSISTENCE—POLICY OF THE ALLIES—COUNTESS D'ARMANSPERG—A TROUBLESOME AMBASSADRESS—RECEIVES A LESSON—HER HUSBAND—REVENGE—MAVROCORDATO—HIS INTIMACY WITH BYRON—ANECDOTES CONCERNING HIM—M. MAURER AT ATHENS—DISCORD AT ITS ACME—BAVARIA INTERFERES—A DIPLOMATIST—AN AWKWARD DINNER—DISCOMFITED PARTY—INTRIGUERS DISMISSED.

FEW courts in Europe or elsewhere afforded such an amusing variety of divers nations as that of Otho: the different ambassadors, with their attachés, of course, in all countries, form a considerable portion of the guests of monarchs, thus ever causing a large assemblage of foreigners; but in general their number is comparatively few in proportion to the native nobles, ministers, officers, gentry, &c., which swell the levees or receptions of a sovereign. But in Greece the case was the reverse. The long period of abject slavery to which the Greeks had

been subjected had tended to check their means of education, as also of holding a free communication with other nations; these circumstances accounted for there being so few individuals who had attained a sufficient degree of civilization as to render them subjects fitting to be admitted at any court, even that of Greece: therefore, the heterogeneous mixture of foreign physiognomies was the more conspicuous as comprising seven-eighths of the attendants and admirers of the good King Otho, and certainly might have been compared to a congress of nations, but was considerably more entertaining; as, instead of being a reunion of the heads alone of the various embassies, it united their appendages, and most of the officers, whether civil or military, of the forlorn, rejected, disappointed, and unemployed of other countries who had now become bowing aspirants at the court of Greece. Nor was the picture the less grotesque, from the union with that portion which was composed of the inhabitants indigenous to the soil; the wild costume of the men, the uncouth style in which the females enfolded themselves within their massive garments, and their embarrassed air at finding themselves amongst groups

of strangers, whose customs and manners were so foreign to their own,—all added to the incongruous appearance of the scene. Indeed some of the sofas were occupied by immense inexpressive looking bundles of old rags, which on further observation appeared occasionally to have some degree of motion, which induced a closer inspection, ultimately proving that they contained old women, but so bemuffled up by queer coloured looking pelisses, trimmed with fur, which I have understood descend from mother to child, from generation to generation, that they become more admirable for their antiquity than for their beauty and freshness. The manner in which their heads were dressed was in keeping with the rest of their apparel, being bundled up in dingy-looking draperies; and often their grizzled tresses entwined amongst the folds of their strange-fashioned turbans, affording a gloomy sort of harmony with the musty appearance of the rest of their aged garments.

But already I must claim the indulgence of my readers, for one of those irregularities of which I fear I shall be so often guilty throughout these incoherent pages. In fact, I must admit my un-

pardonable culpability in attempting to describe a court, and instead of commencing with the monarch, to have given precedence to a parcel of old women; and can only account for it from my extreme admiration of the fair sex, united to my profound veneration for age and grey hairs; but be that as it may, it certainly is a most uncourtier-like proceeding, and I have no doubt, were the case brought before the court of etiquette, I must infallibly be exchequered. In order, therefore, to compensate for the error I have committed, I will now present to my readers his august majesty the King of Greece.

When one beholds a sovereign, we generally look at him with a very scrutinising eye, endeavouring to discern a something beyond the ordinary stamp of man. To make any discovery of that description in Otho, must require a being of superior penetration; at any rate, I must confess my own deficiency in that respect, never having been able to perceive that majesty of appearance in the young king which we naturally imagine the attribute of monarchs. His countenance is ever replete with the expression of good nature, and is in that instance a faithful index of

his character. He is in stature about the middle height, perhaps rather above, may be from five feet nine to ten inches: would appear taller if he did not wear his hair so flat to his head, as though it were gummed thereon; and as if to preserve it constantly in an unruffled state, he has a habit ever and anon of stroking it down with his hand, thereby retaining it in the most perfect and obedient state of smoothness that man could desire: I never saw one rebel hair astray; happy would he be could he keep his subjects in the same state of subordination. But I suspect that this extreme neatness of coïffeur assists in giving him the air of a grocer's apprentice, when dressed in his Sunday clothes; that is to say, those of Bishopsgate-street or Holborn, as those of the west end are more stylish looking fellows than King Otho: and indeed he has other symptoms which savour of the grocer's shop, having a curious knack of continually giving innumerable little nods of his head, which one might be led to imagine he had acquired from endeavouring to emulate those Chinese figures, the usual appendages of dealers in groceries. The comparison may be carried still further: nothing can be *more* inoffensive than the physiognomy of

those images; but undoubtedly that of the king's is as much so. In fact, he always appeared to me to have the expression of a good lad whose master had just patted him on the head, and said to him, "There's a good boy;" thus giving the youth an air of satisfaction with himself and all the world. It would not be fair for me to comment on his colloquial powers, not understanding the German language: what converse we ever had together, was in French, which he spoke very indifferently; and having a great many nervous little twists and quirks in addition to the aforesaid incessant nods of the head, his articulation appeared to me to be impeded, though his animation certainly was increased by these vivacious gesticulations. The fact was, that I could seldom understand what he said, and it was quite evident that I was as rarely comprehended by him: 'tis true he is deaf with one ear, and I with my usual bad tact always contrived to get on the deaf side; it may therefore be easily imagined that our conversation was not very brilliant, having no other merit than its brevity. He has been very wickedly styled by some of the English newspapers the ugly King of Greece; but this is going too far, as I never can

admit that where so much good nature is associated with a countenance, as is so conspicuously the case in his, that the term ugly is admissible. I know no better manner of describing him than by quoting the words of one of the ambassadors of his own court, who observed that when his features were quiet he was very passable, but the moment he spoke or laughed his whole face tumbled to pieces. On these occasions, had not Providence in all its gracious mercy placed his ears remarkably far back, they must have long since fallen a sacrifice to the threatened invasions of his mouth. But his eyes and complexion are good; and when in uniform he is much better looking, having a more patrician appearance, particularly on horseback, as he sits his horse gracefully and rides well.

As might have been expected, the King was accompanied by a host of Bavarian followers, many of whom might be cited as the most perfect models of the pure awkward, as could have been selected from the boors of the wilds of Russia. They displayed a peculiar talent for running against one, treading on one's toes, or some other little specimen of *maladresse* every time they crossed the room,

rarely troubling themselves to make the slightest apology for their clumsiness, except a few of better feeling, who would sometimes turn round and give a sort of grunt, which I verily believe was well intended, and meant to convey the sense of "I beg your pardon;" at least so a good-natured civilized being, taking the will for the deed, would interpret it. Yet were there many very fine young men amongst them, tall, athletic looking fellows; such, in fact, as would not have disgraced a plough's tail even in England, notwithstanding the boasted physical superiority of their peasantry over those of other nations.

But I request my readers will not imagine that I mean by the foregoing observations to libel the whole Bavarian nation. On the contrary, I am convinced that those specimens with which Greece was honoured, were selected as the superlative of all that Bavaria could disgorge of that which was awkward, stupid, and disagreeable. Indeed of this I had something like a confirmation. Conversing one morning with one of Count D'Armansperg's (the president) daughters, she made some remarks rather disadvantageous to the English, and endeavouring to prove the immense superiority of the

Bavarians; whereupon I demanded how it happened that if they were such exalted beings, that we had such miserable samples in those who had favoured Greece with their presence? To which she replied, that Bavaria wished to avail herself of that opportunity of discarding all that was good for nothing from her soil; hence the delectable acquisition Greece obtained by the influx of Bavarians who crowded to her shores. Yet in candour I must admit, that there were some most pleasing exceptions amongst these hordes from Munich, and none so prominent as the president. And having thus introduced him on the *tapis*, and as he has ever filled an elevated situation in the political world, a few observations regarding the positions he has occupied may not be uninteresting to many of my readers.

Count D'Armansperg is in every sense of the word a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman. He was for some time prime minister of Bavaria, and highly esteemed by his sovereign, who was at that period considered the most liberal in his opinions and practice of any monarch in Europe; but suddenly his sentiments changed, and he found the Count (whose ideas could not waver so

rapidly as those of his master) too liberal in his views, and too firm in his principles, to be warped into that mode of thinking which had so quickly metamorphosed the King. An honourable dismissal was therefore suggested, and it was decided that the Count should be nominated ambassador to England, when the opportunity presented itself of appointing him to the still more important post of President of Greece; and happy would it have been for that country had his energies and talents been unshackled by the cabals and intrigues of the other regents.

When England, France, Spain, &c., have been placed under the government of a regency, one regent has been considered as sufficient; but the Allied Powers, in their high and mighty wisdom, because Greece was too poor to have it in her power to pay one regent sufficiently to support the dignity of the character, must needs name three; and not even then satisfied with drawing thus far on her resources, appointed a fourth, under the name of a supernumerary, to act in the event of either of the three being incapacitated by illness, but always to have a vote in their councils.

The result proved as common sense might easily have anticipated. The regents could never agree; and when one party proposed some measure that might prove beneficial to the country, the other party would insist on an opposite course; and thus a state of interregnum ensued. The intellect of D'Armansperg was superior to those united of the other three regents; but their votes always telling in the ratio of three to one, completely nullified the talents of the president. His rivals were conscious of his superiority, and knew that it was only by their constant union that they could make any head against him; but the mortified *amour propre* of a female was the first cause of fomenting the faction against the Count; and as it contains a proof of what powerful influence even the petty cap or bonnet quarrels of females may have over the welfare of a nation, I shall here state it in detail, leaving the reader to judge how the most important events may arise from the most trivial causes.

When Count D'Armansperg entered on his office of President of Greece and regent, in conjunction with the other regents, he received a certain salary, which I have understood to be a hundred thousand

francs, or four thousand pounds sterling per annum, being the same as that of his colleagues; but in addition, two thousand more were placed at his disposal, in order to enable him to give soirees and occasionally dinners to the different ambassadors, generals, commanders on the station, &c., &c., or, in short, for holding the court, which was deemed too arduous a task for the young monarch, he being only nineteen at that period; and as there was no queen, the Countess D'Armansperg presided at the receptions, if not exactly in that character, at any rate as a substitute till a royal mistress could be supplied; and as there were no females in the country of equal talent, or rather tact, which she had acquired from having been accustomed to a life at court, she reigned unrivalled. The Princess D'Archiropolo was certainly of higher rank, but so mild and unassuming that she only showed herself in society for the purpose of chaperoning her daughter, whose accomplishments and natural genius must have shed a lustre on any court in Europe, but was too young to support a conspicuous part in the saloons of the Countess. Her sway, therefore, was undivided; no aspirant appeared to claim a portion of the attention (I

may almost say devotion) paid to her and her three daughters; but this absolute power was not long doomed to have an unchequered reign, the wife of an ambassador arriving who had too high an idea of her own pretensions to suffer the thought that any other lady should be the *only* rising sun worshipped in Greece, whilst *she* inhabited that country; a regular blue-stocking, she was well aware of her acquirements being more profound than usually fall to the share of females, and she soon enlisted under her banners some of the attachés, and drew to her parties some deserters from those of the Countess; and in conversation with that high personage, on certain occasions in society, took opportunities of proving that her erudition was deeper, and her general information more extensive, than that of the Lady-President, who soon found means of mortifying this aspiring rival.

An entertainment was given on board an English frigate; the King, the regents, the ambassadors, and some of the appendages were invited. Refreshments were provided under an awning upon the deck. Whilst seated at the repast, the aforesaid ambassadress merely loosened the strings of

her bonnet, but kept it on; and soon received a message from the Countess, recommending her to take it off, as she did not consider it was sufficiently respectful towards his Majesty, while sitting at the same table with him, for her to retain it. The mandate was obeyed, but the wound rankled deeply in the breast of the reproved fair one: to receive a lesson upon good breeding before so many witnesses was too humiliating to be easily forgiven; she therefore set all her talents and ingenuity to work to degrade her rival.

It must be stated that this mortified and incensed lady had a husband; nor must it be supposed that because he has not been before named, that it was owing to his insignificance rendering him invisible; on the contrary, his stature was far above the usual dimensions of men, but it has been generally considered that his mind was of an inverse proportion; but this I believe to be true, that he was possessed of some discernment, as he suffered his wife always to write his despatches, thereby displaying modesty, judgment, and what is still more, a knowledge of himself. This was the instrument she first set in motion to commence the grand operation of revenge which she meditated. Accordingly she in-

structed him to observe to the regents who were the colleagues of D'Armansperg, that every one was surprised how they could tamely endure to be thrown, as they were, in the background, by the advancing assurance of the President's family, which they had arrogated to themselves, from their having the privilege, and the means of holding the court; all the attention was naturally directed towards those who presided at the levees, balls, receptions, &c.; all distinguished foreigners who visited Greece paid their compliments and devoirs alone to D'Armansperg, scarcely knowing even by name the other regents. Some friends of the ambassadress followed up these remarks, by stating that the world was astonished how they, the regents, could consent to appear mere cyphers at D'Armansperg's parties, when they had it in their power to deprive him of the funds allotted him for sustaining the court, &c.; and that it was a duty they owed to the public to take such sums into their own hands, the President having misapplied them by the favoritism and partiality which he had evinced, and particularly towards the English.

These remarks soon had the desired effect;

every thing was accomplished by a majority of votes in the regents' council; the resolution was carried therefore that the President be deprived of the means formerly placed in his hands for giving public dinners, soirées, &c., on account of the improper manner in which he, and his lady had acquitted themselves in their execution of that duty. I was passing the evening at the Prussian ambassador's when this decision was there stated, in an audible whisper, by the delighted husband of the lady who had thus far brought part of her scheme to bear. D'Armansperg treated the affair with silent contempt, and from his own resources, proudly continued to receive as usual; whilst the adverse party absolutely opened an opposition receiving house, and those whom it was deemed requisite to fête, enjoyed that honour twice over, first at the President's, then at the newly established banqueting hall arranged by the dissentient faction.

Meantime the soirées of the Countess were less numerously attended; in fact, so evident was the desertion of the President's party, that from about two hundred gentlemen, and sixty or seventy ladies, whom I was wont at

first to meet at the presidency, their number at last diminished to perhaps twenty or thirty gentlemen, and two ladies; and to crown all, the King, who had been accustomed to pass *every evening* at the President's, was seen there no longer. But these were not all the most important effects of the bonnet intrigue. Hostilities having now been wrought to the extreme pitch between the two parties, the opposing regents determined to reverse every decree that had before passed, which had emanated from D'Armansperg's suggestion, although sanctioned by their own consent.

With change of measures change of men was deemed requisite, and one of the first that it was thought judicious to displace, was Prince Mavrocordato, at that time minister of foreign affairs, who was known to be a great admirer of the English, and suspected of being ever disposed to favour their interests. To turn him out in an abrupt manner would have been impolitic, therefore the politest method of getting rid of him was resorted to, that of making him an ambassador: accordingly he was nominated for Berlin and Munich. As he has been so often named in the letters of Lord Byron, and ever so favourably, I

conceive that some account of him may not be uninteresting to my readers.

Prince Mavrocordato is rather above fifty years of age, and about five feet seven inches in height, very stoutly made, extremely dark, wearing large black mustachios; and though his physiognomy would at first strike any cursory observer as being harsh, because when thoughtful, his features assume a very stern appearance, yet his smile is one of the most pleasing I ever witnessed; and whether one meets him in society, surrounded by his friends, or in his bureau, amidst his secretaries and clerks, the same kind expression ever greets one, and the ready extended hand bids one welcome. In fact, I never met with a man invested with "office and with state," whose manners were so easy and unostentatious.

His favourite theme (at least when with me) was Lord Byron, who seemed to have left a most agreeable impression on the Prince's reminiscences. Although he had a most exalted idea of the grand sublimity of Byron's imagination, yet he would relate with a smile some of the little weaknesses incidental to human nature which fell to the poet's share; and one instance in particular he

cited, wherein personal vanity appears to have been a predominant passion with the noble bard. Suffering under a severe indisposition, for which bleeding in the temples was considered as a certain specific, none of the physicians nor the friends that were around him could persuade him to undergo the operation, till at length they sent for Mavrocordato, whose influence over Byron they hoped might prove sufficient to prevail upon him to submit to the sentence of his doctors. Mavrocordato assured me it was with the greatest difficulty, he at last prevailed on his friend to accede to the wishes of his medical attendants. He at first asked if it would not very much disfigure him, and next observed that it was his opinion that more persons had been killed by the lancet than by the lance. In his last and fatal illness the same arguments were adduced to persuade him to lose blood, but in vain. The influence of Mavrocordato could not be procured, he being in a distant part of Greece, nevertheless they sent off an express urging him to come with all possible speed. He started at the instant he received the news, and travelled as fast as the state of the country and the roads would admit,

but when he arrived Byron had already expired. Some pretend that had he been bled his life would have been saved. Mavrocordato was of that opinion, and perhaps he may have been right; but I believe that at present a great majority of medical men will admit that many more persons have been killed by bleeding than ever it has saved.

Mavrocordato figured most conspicuously in the struggle for Greek independence, has travelled much in Europe, and is generally estimated as one of the best informed and most intellectual men in Greece; and from all I have heard, I should believe him to be an honourable man, although some recent authors have censured his conduct, and motives most severely, but I am willing to hope they have done so in error.

Maurer, the regent who headed the adverse faction, proceeded to Athens (which it had been decided by ordonnance was forthwith to be constituted the capital), declaring that the plan which had been drawn up for the regeneration of the city must be annulled, and presented them with another, which was to be irrevocable; after the inhabitants had been expending their funds in erecting buildings in the most eligible situations, according to

F. Hervé delt.

J. W. Giles Lithog.r

MAVROCORDATO.

London Published by Whittaker & Co.s Ave Maria Lane

A. Ducôte's Lithog.r 11. St Martins Lane.

the plan from which they had been instructed to proceed in security, whilst by the project now proposed, those positions which before appeared the most central, now became the outskirts, and the poor Athenians found they had expended their cash, and labour in vain: moreover they were informed that Athens could not become the capital for some years, and at length Maurer left it; whilst the inhabitants cursed the President, the regents, and the government at large, for having misled them into an expenditure they could so ill afford, and for which they were to be so ill requited.

This is one amongst so many instances of the paralysing effect that the repeated subversion of former decrees had upon the interests of Greece; no one could proceed in any undertaking with confidence, not knowing but some repeal of a former ordonnance would suddenly appear, that might render all their operations abortive. This clique, which so retarded the progress of affairs in Greece, had the credit of originating in a French intrigue, as Maurer was supposed to be well affected towards France; but in reality it arose from private pique, and soon included amongst

its supporters men of many countries. And though the English ambassador adhered unflinchingly to D'Armansperg, yet he who held the British official situation next in rank, was one of the most zealous of the anti-D'Armansperg party, as also was the advocate general, a shrewd, talented Scotchman, but who in this instance overreached himself.

Affairs at length arrived at that state, that the intervention of some other power was requisite; accordingly, Bavaria was referred to, each party sending in their voluminous statements of the erroneous, if not iniquitous proceedings of their adversaries, and their own immaculate conduct.

The diplomatic agents of different nations contributed their *pour et contre;* but England, through the representation of her minister, who, ever on the spot, had keenly scrutinized the affair, and reported faithfully to his government, all powerful England, cast her colossal weight into the scale in favour of D'Armansperg. Need I state the result? It was not promulgated till a few days after I quitted Greece, but the evening prior to my departure, I was walking without the gates of

Napoli, and met the English ambassador, who was, as well as myself, alone. After a few sentences interchanged between us, he asked me what I thought of the state of things, and which party I judged would prevail? I smiled at the question, observing, that he who had the means of procuring every information that could be obtained, could not attach any value to my opinion on the subject: I also added, that I very much suspected that he at that time knew the decision. He replied by observing that I was mistaken in imagining that he must always be the best informed on every subject of that nature. People, he remarked, were always on their guard towards him, "whereas," continued he, "they will be much more at their ease with you, and proportionately more communicative," adding, that I went much more into society than he did, and concluding by again pressing me for my opinion as to who would triumph; to which I replied, I had no doubts on the subject, having every reason to feel certain that it would be D'Armansperg. "Indeed!" he exclaimed, "I am glad you think so, but can assure you the other party are full of confidence of success."

After a few more observations, we separated,

and I afterwards understood that he was at that time in possession of the news which settled the whole affair; but why it was not proclaimed, even for some days afterwards, no one that I ever met with could comprehend. The public were in the most feverish state of anxiety; no subject but that seemed to be talked, or even thought of. The triumph for D'Armansperg was as full and complete as his most sanguine friend could have desired, and the most singular method of first announcing it was adopted by the Countess. A large party was invited to dine at her house, a few of whom were her real friends, but the major part were her enemies; certainly not publicly declared as such, but whose machinations, and inimical wishes towards her and hers the Countess was well aware of, whilst it must be admitted that they had not taken any pains to disguise their sentiments, but on the contrary had ceased to frequent her soirées, but without coming to any explanation; consequently, no open rupture had taken place between them, and they now received her invitation with surprise, and from the impulse of the moment, bowed assent.

The reader may not be aware perhaps that regents, (and more particularly the President,)

assume the authority of sovereigns, and an invitation to dinner is very little better than a command; prior engagement is not admissible; a refusal therefore under any circumstances, is considered a presumption that is never forgiven nor forgotten.

Friends and foes at length assembled at Count D'Armansperg's at the time appointed, the former tolerably well informed for what purpose, whilst the latter knew not what to conjecture. The dinner passed, as might be expected, gaily by the one party, whilst an air of embarrassment restrained the enjoyment of the other. The repast over, an adjournment took place to another room, where there were no seats, the Countess, I suppose, imagining that the information she was about to give would have a higher relish by being received standing; and after a few prefatory remarks, as to the great gratification the tidings she had to communicate would afford to all present, she informed them, that the King of Bavaria had thoroughly approved of Count D'Armansperg's conduct, and confirmed him in all his powers; which could only be effected by the removal of his political opponents.

A gentleman who was present (of the discomfited party), declared to me that it was beyond his powers to describe the sensation excited by this unexpected news; the friends of the President expressed their unfeigned satisfaction most unequivocally; whilst his opponents were so taken by surprise, that they knew not how to act, but attempted not congratulation, but as imperceptibly, and as speedily as they could, abstracted themselves from the party. The French ambassador spared himself this mortification by declining the invitation, on the score of ill health, but witnessed with regret the dismissal and disgrace of all the most active agents of the anti-D'Armansperg party.

Maurer, the regent, was deprived of his office, as also the supernumerary; the obnoxious ambassadress, and her husband shared the same fate. The English diplomatist who had played so conspicuous and important a part against the President, was discharged, and I believe never again employed by the British cabinet, although his family had for half a century at least, been holding lucrative appointments in the diplomatic career; the Scotch advocate general was dis-

missed, and received a subordinate post at a town in the interior, where probably he would be the only educated being in the place; but with him I have no doubt it is but a suspension, as his talents are of too high an order to be suffered to remain in obscurity, whilst Greece must ever find them so useful to her interests.

Thus terminated this extended intrigue, the effects of which had been felt from one extremity of the kingdom to the other, and to which, perhaps, I have already devoted too much time and space, but trust I have given a faithful report, though in many instances, as I could not personally witness that which I have related, I may in some of the minutia have been led into error; but at all events the substance and material are correct, and for that which may be otherwise, let it lay at the door of my informers; but I verily believe they have no dereliction from truth to answer for. And now presuming that my reader is as tired of this chapter as I am, I will speedily conclude it, and proceed to the next, hoping it may be shorter, and more amusing: the first I will guarantee, of the second I am not so confident.

CHAPTER III.

YOUNG LADIES AT THE COURT OF OTHO—SERVILE DEVOTION TO HIS MAJESTY—TREMENDOUS ACCIDENT AND BLOODSHED—FANCY BALL—A GENERAL REJECTED—BAVARIAN BEAUTY—GREEK DITTO—MENAGERIE ROYALE—ANIMATED INDIVIDUAL—HIS VALOUR—A VAUNTING PRUSSIAN BARON, HIS MANŒUVRES AND RETREAT—HIS AUDACITY—A GAME OF CHESS—THE BARON'S ELOQUENCE—A DRAWN BATTLE—A GREEK PRINCE—HIS CONDUCT, AND THAT OF HIS SON—PRINCE IPSILANTI, HIS CAPTURE AND DEATH.

Amongst the brightest ornaments which adorned the court of Otho, none were so brilliant as the three daughters of Count D'Armansperg, who might justly be compared to the three Graces. If not handsome, yet extremely pleasing in their persons, agreeable in their manners, and elegant in their deportment, they gracefully floated through the mazes of the waltz, forming a most striking contrast to most of the Greek ladies, who rolled about like a parcel of heavy tubs one after the other, assisted in their progress, as they were lugged along, by those who had the misfortune of

being their partners, whom I have often heard declare that the next day it was impossible to write, or in any way use their arms, after the fatigue of spinning round one of these cumbrous ladies. Not that they were by any means tall or large women; on the contrary, generally very short, certainly often thick, and that sort of dead weight which is difficult to wheel about. Often have I pitied the king, who, though young and slight, and not possessing, I think, much physical strength, yet out of pure kindness of heart would ask one of the aforesaid drags to waltz with him who became so elated and bewildered at the idea of being encircled within the arm of a king, that it required no common exertion, paralyzed and motionless as they were, to turn and twist about a heavy machine of that description.

There certainly is something of magic contained in the idea of king on many, nay, I will say on *most* people. That those who have been reared in aristocratic feelings, should pay a respectful homage to the summit of aristocracy, is not to me surprising; but that your brawlers after liberty, your roarers for freedom, *soi disant* Republicans, Carbonari, &c., should be the first to jump at an

opportunity of saving a king the trouble of taking up his hat when under his hand, or of removing his coat tails out of the way when he sat down, &c. &c., I confess is to me most marvellous, yet such I have witnessed; in fact, the anxiety to have the honour to perform any trivial act of politeness to the King, was most amusing, when it is reflected that many who composed the court of Greece, were those who had fled from Italy, Naples, &c., on account of their too liberal and free thinking principles.

I well remember seeing the King most closely watched during the progress of his raising a cup of tea to his royal lips, by two vigilant observers, who waited impatiently the moment when the cup should be empty, that they might fly to the aid of their monarch, and disburthen him of the vacant vessel. These aspirants for royal favour were situated at opposite sides of the room, and unfortunately made a rush at the same instant, whereby they came most violently in contact, within a few inches of their sovereign. Now each of these gentlemen had a proboscis so far exceeding the usual proportions, that when their two faces struck together, the concussion was audible:

the King advanced a few paces to ascertain the extent of the damage; a powerful sensation was excited throughout the assembly, until it was ascertained that one of the victims had sustained but little injury. The other, however, whose nasal charms appeared to be of a more tender and susceptible nature, bled most copiously, whilst I could not resist congratulating him on his good fortune, in thus having had an opportunity of shedding his blood in the service of his monarch. At first he half thanked me for my condolence, but observing some of the bystanders inclining to smile, he looked at me with a sort of expression, which seemed to indicate he would rather I had held my tongue.

Among the many whimsicalities which occurred at the Grecian court, few occasioned greater mirth than the following. The Countess wished to give *un bal costumé*, or fancy ball, wherein it was expected that every one would come in some different habit from his usual garb, or in some character, or in a domino if they chose, but it was strictly enjoined that no one should be masqued; and so rigidly was this mandate enforced, that a servant was placed at the entrance, with orders to turn

away any one who might appear in a mask. The man was most zealous in obeying his instructions, and being a stranger, was not acquainted with the countenances of all who were accustomed to frequent the presidency; and amongst the number that presented themselves for admittance to this *bal deguisé*, was one person whose physiognomy was so extraordinary, and forsooth so remarkably plain, that the poor servant absolutely thought he had a mask on, and therefore perforce would not suffer him to enter, but at the same time explaining the cause; nor could the rejected individual obtain an entrance, until some gentlemen stepped forward, and convinced this pugnacious Cerberus that it was the General's own natural face, which he had mistaken for a mask.

But for the honour of Greece, it behoves me to state that the personage here alluded to, was not a native; not that she would have had any difficulty in selecting from her population some nearer approaches to the perfect line of distortion! Certainly, when Bavaria sent forth her tribes to assist in populating the classic Grecian shores, she ought to have paid more attention to the personal appearance of those whom she thus transported, as

Greece, if she had any wealth, could only be said to be rich in ugliness; therefore, the great portion of that ingredient which his Bavarian Majesty exported to his son's dominions was, to use a vulgar adage, no better than sending coals to Newcastle.

When Henry the Eighth went to Rochester to take a peep at his betrothed Ann of Cleves, he said they had sent him a great Flanders mare. Often have I thought of the monarch's words, as I have regarded some of the wives of the Bavarian soldiers; tall, gaunt, long-faced and bony, they often reminded me of a whitish-headed horse stuck upon his hind legs, and a little female attire pitched upon it; and, in fact, I doubt not but that an animal thus accoutred, might pass amongst a crowd of Bavarian women of the lower orders unnoticed! As they were accustomed to wash their own and their husbands' rags facing my windows, I had a fair opportunity of contemplating these uncouth specimens of the fair sex.

As a proof that my description is not *outré*, I was laughing with the young ladies D'Armansperg, about the singularity of the physiognomies of some of the persons who attended the court,

and observing the great resemblance many of them bore to divers animals,—they demanded names, which I declined to mention, but consented to particularize the different description of animals to whom I found a likeness amongst the visitors frequenting their receptions; and, strange to say, I had only to state the animal, when they named the person immediately, proving that I could not have given a more accurate description; as, for instance, a sucking pig, answer, the young Countess ——; a parrot, Madame ——; a dancing bear, the Minister of ——; a poodle dog, the Secretary to ——; an ourang-outang, an Attaché to ——; a cat, the Lady of ——; a weasel, Captain ——; an elephant, the —— Ambassador; a kangaroo, Mademoiselle ——, a Greek young lady, who had a singular manner of holding her hands not unlike the way in which that gentle animal keeps its fore paws whilst squatting on its hind legs; in fact, if Ménagerie Royale was written on the palace walls where the court was held, it would be a very concise and faithful description of the major part of its visitors!

Amongst the strange mixture of various nations congregated in Greece, harmony could not be ex-

pected to exist without occasional interruptions; and as a great proportion of new arrivals were military men, "sudden and quick in quarrel," duels became very frequent, and at every trifling dispute amongst those gentry their sabres were appealed to for a decision; and several passable looking faces were horribly disfigured by unseemly scars. But some there were amongst the gay and courtly throng who did not approve of this disagreeable mode of settling a difference of opinion. Of this description was a gentleman whose overpowering agility and animation had often amused me: he had not quite St. Vitus's dance, yet it was very evident that none of his limbs could remain quiet for more than an instant; and when he really did dance, one would have supposed it was St. Vitus himself. Delighted to have that privilege of motion, arms and legs flew about as if enchanted at having their full swing; but one evening, as he was thus displaying his activity in all the full luxury of enjoyment, charmed with his own prowess, in a fling-about extraordinary, in terminating a most splendid pirouette, he upset a little Greek officer, who being rather of a fiery order, sternly called out, "What do you

mean by that?" "What else should I mean," replied the other, "but to prove that you were in my way." "Sir," replied the man of Mars, "this is not the place to discuss this subject; but you shall hear from me to-morrow morning." "Shall be very happy, Sir; always gratified at having the pleasure of seeing you, or hearing from you," said the twist-about gentleman, with that invincible good humour, ever unruffled, at the same time swinging round on his heel, and performing one of his favourite pirouettes, greatly to his own satisfaction, having this time full and uninterrupted swing; the officer retiring a few paces to give him fair play, having no ambition to be floored a second time. But the next morning he sent a brother officer to the quicksilver gentleman, who was an under secretary in one of the minister's offices, to demand an apology; at which the young scribe exclaimed, "What!—I apologize!—No, indeed, I shall do no such thing; but should act in the same manner under similar circumstances." "Then, Sir," returned the officer, "you must appoint a spot and hour when you can meet my friend, and give him that satisfaction which honour requires, having the goodness to provide yourself

with a second and sabre." "What! I fight!" sung out the young clerk. "Not I, indeed; what should I do with a great gash across my face? I should not think of such a thing; his trade *is* fighting, mine is writing; he may fight all the world if he likes, but he shan't fight me." "Then, Sir," replied the Greek, "the first time my friend meets you he will give you a box o' the ear." "Ah! well, I shall like that much better," quoth the secretary, with an air of high satisfaction at the thought of getting through the affair so harmlessly. Here the fracas, I believe, ended; nor was the promised gift ever delivered. I certainly imagined that the challenged would never again be received in society; but I met him as usual, looking as good humoured and as frisky as ever.

Another ball-room dispute of a very trifling nature was productive of a duel, but of a bloodless nature. The parties having fired without effect, and the seconds interfering, it was amicably adjusted. One of the parties was a Prussian baron, who came to Greece with very high pretensions, and was introduced into society by the Austrian consul. I met him at Athens at several different houses, where he talked very high—had been to

all the architects in the place, employing them to draw designs of the houses he intended to erect, and which were to be like castles. But, alas! they all proved castles in the air. He also entered into long discussions with the proprietors of land, respecting extensive purchases he intended to make of that commodity.

Meanwhile, the bills against him of the different tradespeople began to rise as high as the tone he assumed; whilst he began to display his preference for some of his friends over others, by borrowing certain sums of them, to be returned from his next remittances. I happened to stand but low in his scale of friendship, as he obtained but a few dollars from me.

At last, his most intimate friend and companion was called by affairs into the interior; and as an accommodation lent him his horse during his absence. This was a golden opportunity not to be neglected. So he turned the horse into gold, and, with the proceeds, made his escape across the country; arrived at Patras, and embarked on board a vessel bound for Corfu. A pursuit was set on foot for the purpose of bringing him back; but he was too quick in his motions for his pur-

suers, and quitted the Greek territory before they could come up with him. But his audacity still accompanied him. When at Corfu he met with two English gentlemen, who were on their way to Greece, of which he gave them a very minute description; informing them that he had just quitted it; that having had a little duel with a young Greek prince, he became so remarkable that every one looked at him to such a degree, that his diffidence could no longer bear it; and he resolved on quitting the country; but also stated that he would give them letters of introduction that would be highly serviceable. The gentlemen, with thanks, accepted his offer; and accordingly he had the impudence to write to the Prussian ambassador, and others, recommending the bearers in the highest terms; and when they presented their letters, they were not a little shocked and surprised to learn the character of the man from whom they had received them.

It must be admitted that the baron played his *rôle* well in Greece. He possessed but little cash when he arrived there; yet he obtained all that respect and attention which in all climes is pressed upon him who has the credit of being a rich man.

But the poor Greeks were less culpable in their adoration of a golden idol, which they flattered themselves fortune had thrown in their way in this *soi-disant* wealthy stranger, inasmuch as almost all the foreigners who had come to reside amongst them had nothing. Therefore, one who had something was a *rara avis*, and was cherished accordingly, not only by the poor and humble, but by the highest and most influential persons in the kingdom. I well remember passing an evening in a social way at the Prince C—a's, and having known them in France long before, was received in their snug little parlour as one of the family; and as we were all sitting comfortably and quietly the baron was announced. *The Baron!* exclaimed the party. Already he had been ushered into one of the state rooms, whilst the females began flying about to improve their costumes; and all the quiet of the domestic circle was deranged to receive this mighty baron. He was certainly gentlemanly in his manners, young, and good-looking, possessing some degree of talent, a constant flow of conversation ever at command, and an inexhaustible stock of assurance, which tells immensely in society. He was not only ever a welcome

guest at the President's parties, but had also obtained an entry at the *petites soirées*.

I remember to have met him at one of these,—the very evening prior to the day of his departure, and remarking how perfectly confident and at home he appeared whilst conversing with the King in his usual style of volubility; how much more he seemed at his ease with Otho than any of the ambassadors, or any other individual, except the President, or the Prince Saxe Altemberg, brother to the Queen of Bavaria, and uncle to the young King of Greece. But, in fact, who but a man of the most unparalleled impudence could have played the part which he did so unblushingly?

One night, at Count d'Armansperg's, I afforded him an excellent opportunity of displaying his elocution, and at the same time his scientific knowledge of the game of chess; he had always proclaimed that he was so accomplished a player that he had never been beaten, yet in spite of this thundering announcement, I was induced to encounter him. He modestly asked me what piece he should give me, to which I replied, we would begin on equal terms, and when we had played

one game, we could better judge of our relative strengths; he assented, smiling at my temerity, and accordingly we set to, amidst a crowd of spectators, amongst whom was the king, some of the ministers, ambassadors, &c.: therefore the baron appeared determined to profit by so fortunate an occasion of displaying his choicest flowers of rhetoric; and, after having made about a dozen moves, he observed to the bystanders, "You now perceive the sound policy on which my game is founded: although I have considerably advanced my forces, my rear is so protected, that there is not any one point on which it is assailable; and you will soon find, by my system of manœuvring, that I shall win the game on the same principle as Napoleon gained his battles, that, however the numbers are in fact equal, wherever the point of attack takes place, I shall appear the most numerous by the skill I shall display, in throwing in my forces where their strength will be most demanded."

He then certainly commenced a most powerful assault upon my king, which might have ended in checkmate; but in repelling his attack, I brought out my knight and bishop, so as to have a vacancy which enabled me to castle my king,

thus changing the scene of action, and rendering his plan abortive. Perceiving this, he observed, "Ah! that alters the case for the moment; but my position is so fine that I shall remain the assailant to the end of the contest."

It was evident that most of the spectators were interested for the admired baron, and did not for an instant doubt his winning; but one of my good-natured but rough countrymen said to me in English, "Don't you let that bullying baron palaver you out of the game; preserve your silence and attention, and he'll not beat you now." My opponent, in bringing the greater part of his forces to bear on one point, had left another unguarded, of which I availed myself by making a counter attack upon him, and by a succession of checks, brought on a series of exchange of pieces, which I considered to my advantage, whilst he declared that there was no system of play so idle as a parcel of useless checks; that I was only making a number of waste moves, that could end in nothing, and exchanging for exchanging sake.

However, the end of the skirmish was, that I had gained a pawn, he having a king, and bishop

left, and I a king, knight and pawn; whereupon he got up, saying, it must be a drawn game, as I could not prevent his exchanging his bishop for my pawn. I doubted it at the same time, and have never since tried it; but as I was very well content, after an immensely long game, to draw it, I did not press the continuance, and verily believe that if he had held his tongue, and paid strict attention, that he would have beaten me; instead of which he talked so incessantly that his holding forth amounted to one continued oration, and had he been describing the battle of Austerlitz, he could not have made use of more military technicalities, nor adopted more bombastic language; and he still came off with flying colours, as almost every one complimented him on the scientific acumen he had displayed, and how evident it was that he was a player of the very first class, whilst the Englishman, who had said a few encouraging words to me, made strenuous efforts to promote the finishing of the game, but was answered from all quarters that it was useless, as it must be drawn. I therefore ceded the point to the majority, much more to my countryman's vexation than my own.

Having alluded to the Prince C—a, I should not pay him the respect due to his grey hairs, if I passed him over without further observation. He certainly is the finest looking old man I ever beheld; his head might serve as a model of the perfection of all that was venerable, and dignified; his dark eyes, his long white flowing beard, his majestic costume surmounted by the graceful turban, gave the most noble, and imposing air to his manly figure. He was one of the many Greeks from Fanar, a suburb of Constantinople, and sort of hot-bed for Greek talent, from which sprung most of the celebrated dragomans, envoys, secretaries, &c. &c., whom the Porte received in their service, and if faithful promoted to some of the highest posts in the empire: this was the case with Prince C—a, who was appointed hospodar of one of the most important provinces of the Ottoman empire; this situation he had held some years when the Greek revolution broke out, and which *policy* forced him to deprecate in the severest terms; meanwhile he was meditating a stroke which he afterwards accomplished, and which gave that strength to the efforts of his countrymen, that enabled them to sustain the contest:

at a period when their energies were languishing, and the want of funds was so severely felt, that all the endeavours of the patriots were paralysed, that *nerve* of war, money, he supplied, having escaped from his capital, with, it is said, as much as a million sterling, partly consisting of an accumulation of his own savings during his reign as hospodar, and partly (I suspect the major part) being the public treasury of his principality, consequently property belonging to the Turkish government. All, they say, is fair in war; his friends observe, that his countrymen were at war at that time with the Turks their oppressors, therefore that spoil which he could take from the destroyers of his nation, and give to his distressed country, was fulfilling his duty; whilst his enemies declare that during the time he was receiving the pay of any government as the wages of his fidelity, and continued in that lucrative employment, notwithstanding the conduct of his rebel countrymen might cause him to be a suspected person, that the desertion of the power that raised him, was a breach of trust and act of treachery. I shall leave others to judge of the rectitude of his proceedings, merely putting one query,—had he remained

ever so faithful to the Porte, how long, judging from too many fatal precedents, would he have escaped the bowstring?

On making his escape he wrote to one of his sons, who was at the time in Constantinople, two letters, the one recommending his son to go immediately, and denounce him to the Sultan, and taking the other letter with him, in which he merely states his intention of escaping with all his wealth, &c. This measure was necessary to save the head of his son, who would have been immediately executed, if he had not been the first to communicate the news to the Sultan, in the shape of an information against his father, who took good care he should be beyond the reach of the Ottoman power, before the intelligence could arrive at Constantinople. Accordingly the young prince went, and threw himself at the feet of the Sultan, giving most violent vent to his feelings, and presenting the letter of the hospodar, bewailing himself that it should fall to his hard lot to become the denouncer of his father; at the same time stating, that he had not balanced an instant between his duty to his parent, and that to his sovereign, aware how light was the former

when weighed in comparison with the latter. The Sultan perfectly approved the young man's conduct, and took him into higher favour than ever; but the wily prince profited by the first opportunity of secreting himself on board a vessel bound for Europe, and finally arrived at Marseilles, where I first met him. His father, the ex-hospodar, is considered to be the richest man in Greece; but report states that when he fled from his principality, and reached the Austrian territory, he was not permitted to pass untaxed through those dominions, but was compelled to pay as much as a million of francs (about 40,000*l.*) for the privilege of having a free passage through the country, instead of being delivered up to the Turkish government, or confined within the walls of some old German fortress; and indeed he might have congratulated himself in escaping thus cheaply, as, when some years before, Demetrius Ipsilanti, a Greek prince, was compelled to avail himself of the same resource, he was never suffered to quit the imperial realms, to record the inhospitable treatment he there encountered. Hoping for support from Russia, he had been induced to raise the standard of revolt against the tyranny of the

Porte: at first carrying every thing before him, he possessed himself of Yassy and Bucharest, the capitals of Moldavia and Wallachia; but sustaining one ruinous defeat, he sought refuge in an Austrian province, was arrested, and imprisoned for the rest of his life in a tower, which proved both his gaol and his tomb, he dying in captivity a few years after his incarceration. Had this young man borne in mind the conduct of the Austrian government towards Lafayette, with such a precedent before him, how could he have expected any other than similar treatment; but the exhospodar was rich, and not having the greater part of his wealth with him, his liberty was therefore requisite in order to obtain the gold for his ransom; otherwise, would he have been more fortunate than his predecessors, placed under the same circumstances? But I must break off abruptly, or I shall not perform the promise to which I pledged myself at the conclusion of the last chapter; but, on the contrary, if I trust myself with another subject, shall make this longer instead of shorter than the foregoing.

CHAPTER IV.

POVERTY OF THE BAVARIANS—THEIR ECONOMY, AND GREAT APPETITES—THEIR TALENT FOR MUSIC—TOTAL DEFICIENCY OF THE GREEKS—EDUCATED GREEKS—CAPO D'ISTRIAS—HIS ASSASSIN—AND HIS EXECUTION—PETRO BEY—THE MAINOTES—VINDICTIVE CUSTOMS—NEVER ENTIRELY CONQUERED—AWKWARD ATTEMPT BY THE BAVARIANS—THEIR TOTAL DEFEAT—THEIR MATERIEL SAVED BY THE GREEKS—NEWSPAPER MISREPRESENTATIONS—MIAULIS, THE GREEK ADMIRAL—CANARIS, THE BRULOTIER—HIS EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE—GREEK NAVY—FABVIER—HIS DEVOTION TO THE GREEK CAUSE—GENERAL GORDON—HIS ZEAL AND PERSEVERANCE—COLATTI—HIS STERN EXTERIOR—GREEK WARRIORS—THEIR COURAGE—GREEK DIPLOMATIST—HIS FORECAST AND CALCULATING POWERS.

WHEN Bavaria exported her refuse to Greece, it is to be lamented that she did not furnish them with a little coin in their pockets, to have kept up in some measure, rather more decent appearances, instead of their being obliged on their arrival to anticipate their appointments, as Greece was the last country in the world capable of paying in advance. But, alas! it was the poor devoted loan

that went to work, not for the legitimate sons of Greece, but for her adopted children. It was pitiable, certainly, to see many of the mountain chiefs, after having shed their blood in the cause of their country, while struggling against the power of Turkey, and in many instances sacrificing their patrimony, covered with wounds, wandering about the streets of Napoli, their meagre appointments taken from them, and bestowed on the newly arrived foreigners, some of them the sons of shopkeepers in Munich, who were so ignorant respecting Greece, that when the map of Europe was presented to them, they knew not in what quarter to seek it!

I wish to do justice unto all men; and having made some allusion to the poverty of the Greekified Bavarians, let me now make the *amende honorable*, by declaring that however poor they might be, they were not improvident; in fact, their system of economy was carried to a degree of rigour I have seldom witnessed. A luckless French restaurateur had come to Napoli, hoping to improve his fortune, and was soon assailed by the Bavarian officers, with the colonel at the head, who, partly by persuading, and partly by bullying,

induced the poor devil to provide them a good dinner, at a drachm a head (about eight pence halfpenny). The man declared he should lose by it; upon which they assured him that his great gain would be on the profit he would make on the French wines they should purchase of him; and the poor fellow declared to me they never ordered any but the cheap Greek wines, which are scarcely fit to travel down a Christian throat, as resin is always put in them, from the idea that it enables them to keep the better, but in effect renders them so horribly nauseous, that one taste of them is quite sufficient to prevent your ever having the desire to repeat it. But the ingenuity with which these gentlemen had a knack of turning every thing to advantage, was highly instructive: if they were not able to consume their allotted portion of bread at dinner, they pocketed the remainder, for the convenience, no doubt, of gnawing at another opportunity. Thus much for the officers. The men were not behind in endeavouring to prove themselves worthy of their calculating commanders, and displayed a most laudable ambition, not only to follow the example of their superiors, but if possible to surpass it. A number

of them were quartered at a place called Pronea, a large village, so near to Napoli that it might be considered one of its suburbs, and the inhabitants complained bitterly that they never could keep a cat, the Bavarian soldiers having eaten every one in the place, and that they had endeavoured in vain to replace them with others, but that they infallibly shared the same fate! The consequence was that they were overrun with rats and mice.

The redress I recommended was to draw up a memorial, and send it to the head-quarters, praying the commanding officer to give orders, that, his men having eaten up all their cats, should immediately turn to, and eat up all the rats and mice, being only a reasonable compensation, and such a one as justice loudly demanded! Having left Greece before the result of the petition was known, I am ignorant whether the Proneotes obtained the desired satisfaction.

One service Bavaria undoubtedly rendered Greece, that of introducing music into their country; for their bands were certainly extremely good, and never perhaps was there a nation more destitute of all ideas of harmony than Greece. The natives make an immense noise, commencing

always with "Yar," which they hold on as long as their breath will let them, ringing it through the nose, and running about the gamut in all possible ways, and succeeding in raising such a hideous yell, that until I got more accustomed to it, I have run as fast as my legs would carry me to get out of the hearing of so disgusting a noise; and their lungs are so eternal, that they will keep on this dissonant howl for an hour without stopping. But it will afford some idea of Greek taste, when I state a circumstance that occurred to me, when walking with a Greek gentleman. Some Zantiots were singing very sweetly the Venetian air of "Il Pescator," &c.; and I remarked to my companion how well they sung; he smiled, and observed "*They* sing well, indeed! they have some knowledge as to using their mouth, but they have no idea whatever how to make use of their nose!" the latter talent being that which is the most highly valued amongst the Greeks.

Their attempts at painting are little better, and I am at a loss to discover on what grounds so many persons assert, that, had they the advantages of the highest education, they would surpass all other Europeans, when the experi-

ments which have hitherto been tried have not produced any one above mediocrity.

Lord Guilford, that true philhellenist, sent at his own expense a number of Greek youths to the English universities, where for the most part they conducted themselves with propriety, but displayed no brilliance. The King of Bavaria did the same, sending many lads from Greece to various colleges in Europe; other philanthropic characters pursued similar measures, actuated by a desire of resuscitating, if it were possible, the genius and fire of ancient Greece; but, alas! the ashes of her former glory appear to have been too long extinguished, for the power of man to awake from them one spark of their once sublime heroism and intellectual grandeur.

Not one celebrated character did all the efforts of the enthusiastic admirers of Greece bring forth. From all the young men selected for the purpose of receiving the most classic and polished education, Capo d'Istrias alone stands forward as an eminently talented man, emanating from modern Greece. He, I believe, was born at Corfu, and became a protegée of Russia, and is well known

during his presidency of Greece, to have favoured the interests of that country, which was of course considered inimical to those of England and France; but, with all his faults, I must confess that whenever I found any institution existing, that was beneficial to the country, if I asked who was the founder, the reply ever was, Capo d'Istrias.

His assassination was not, as has been generally supposed, instigated by political, but by private feeling. He had imprisoned Petro Bey, Prince Mavromichali, the prince of Maina; and as the natives of that province are reared with the idea that it is a sacred duty to revenge an injury inflicted on a relation, the brother, and son of Petro Bey resolved on murdering the President, who had been cautioned to be on his guard: however, naturally courageous, and thinking it politic to affect a greater degree of boldness and confidence than he really felt, he took no precautions; and on the day that he fell, he proceeded to church, but when within a few paces of the door, being in advance of his guard, he perceived two men of suspicious and scowling appearance. He paused for an instant, then, as if checking his hesitation,

J. W. Giles Lithog.r

F. Hervé del.t

MAVROMICHALI, PETRO BEY,

Prince of the Mainotes.

Published by Whittaker & Co. Ave Maria Lane, London.

he raised his hat to the strangers, and smiling passed on, but as he entered the porch they buried their weapons in his breast.

The brother of Petro Bey was sacrificed at the moment by the guard; but the son escaping, fled to the French ambassador, who himself declared to me how embarrassed he felt as to the line of conduct he ought to adopt under such delicate circumstances. The youth came running into the room where the baron was sitting, exclaiming, "The tyrant lives no longer! he expired under the hands of myself and my uncle; and I now ask you for an asylum from an infuriated populace." The baron, after a moment's hesitation, replied, "I will protect you from the mob, but when the authorities, delegated by the laws of your country, demand you, I can shelter you no longer;" which, as the public well knows, was the case; and the handsome assassin was tried, condemned, and shot; but it is worthy remark, that, as he was descending the rock of the almost perpendicular Palymede, on which his prison was situated, on his way to execution, he could see his father walking about the yard of the building, in which he was confined, and bowed his farewell three

times to his parent, but never even at the last moment for an instant lost his firmness.

The French ambassador, I have no doubt, felt much hurt at delivering young Mavromichali into the hands of justice, as it was very evident that the fall of Capo d'Istrias, inasmuch as it was a death-blow to the preponderating influence of Russia, was proportionately beneficial to that of France. It was, therefore, impossible but that the baron must have had much sympathy for the instrument who struck the blow so favourable to the interests of his country; and, independent of any political feelings, much allowance must be made for a young man brought up with an idea, that, if you revenge not an injury to a parent, it is not only a breach of filial duty, but a proof of cowardice. Some of the most inveterate enemies of Capo d'Istrias go so far, as to blame the ambassador for having delivered the assassin into the power of his judges, by declaring that, after the death of the President, the government that was immediately formed was not acknowledged by the whole of Greece, nor by the European powers; consequently, whatever tribunals they might form, they were not legally constituted; and that he

should on that account have refused to deliver Mavromichali into any hands, but those of a power that was legitimatized by the sanction of the Allies, such as the present. And had that been the case, I verily believe that the culprit would now have been alive, as nothing could exceed the attention of Otho's government to his surviving brother, and to Petro Bey, who certainly is a very fine old fellow.

He was suffering from the gout at the time I took his portrait, which I have still preserved; for, though an invalid, his eye had lost none of its natural fire, and the resemblance, it was admitted, could not have been better, had it been taken from him whilst in the full vigour of health. Having thus much dilated on the princes of Maina, it will not be irrelevant to the subject, to make some remarks on that most extraordinary province.

Maina forms a part of that country which was once the far-famed Lacedemonia. Many persons have remarked that it *never* was conquered; but that assertion is not thoroughly borne out, as it has entered into arrangements with several powers, in common with the rest of Greece, to pay certain taxes, and to have certain restrictions imposed

on them; but have retained so many privileges that they always considered themselves as independent. When I passed at sea within sight of a part of the country, I asked how it happened that all the buildings had the appearance of churches; and I was informed that the custom ever had been, from time immemorial, for every house to have a tower, whilst the inhabitants, being well armed, are always prepared to stand a siege; and family feuds go so far, that some men have been compelled to remain upwards of thirty years without ever quitting their own house, on account of their having injured some one, whose family and numerous relatives alternately keep watch, armed with a firelock, pistols, &c., to be ready to shoot the delinquent the moment he appears outside his door, but aware that he is too well prepared for them to attempt to storm his castle. Under these circumstances, the man thus confined is supplied by his wife, mother, or sister with provisions; and the women (whatever may be the furious pitch to which these murderous quarrels are wrought) are always held sacred. But this system of shooting at each other at the first convenient opportunity, is not confined to the Mainotes, as a friend of

mine, General G—, commanded a brigade in Greece, composed of many nations, and heard one morning, that one of his officers had shot another under the following circumstances:—They were both natives of Corsica; and having had a dispute of so violent a nature, that killing each other was the only remedy that could be resorted to, they, according to the fashion of their country, agreed to despatch each other, as speedily as possible. One of them lived hard by, and ran home for his musket, and, calculating that his adversary would do the same, flew towards his house, and placed himself in such a position, as to be enabled to shoot him as he entered; but the other, judging that he would do so, called in at a friend's, where he borrowed a firelock; and getting behind his enemy, shot him in the back, at the very moment that he was watching for his assailant's entrance by the door of his dwelling. General G., on making inquiries, found that it was the regular mode of duelling in Corsica, and therefore did not visit the survivor with any severity for the part he had acted.

Many attempts have been made to reduce the Mainotes; but never with full success. Their

country is surrounded by immense mountains; the passes, which form the only entrances to the province, are so fortified by nature, that a few men can defend them against a host; and that part which is open to the sea, offers equal difficulties to the invader, whilst their possessions are too poor to tempt the cupidity of the warlike adventurer. Ibraham Pacha, after having carried every thing before him in Greece with his formidable army, made but a feeble attempt upon Maina; finding that it would require an innumerable sacrifice of men, he considered that the object that might be gained by the conquest of the country, would be too dearly purchased; and to starve them into obedience is impossible. The sea supplies them with fish, and game is remarkably abundant, particularly quails, which they salt, and lay up as provision for the winter. Thus fortified, and supplied by nature, they have hitherto successfully bid defiance to their enemies, who have been glad to enter into a compromise with them, rather than visit them hostilely in their strongholds.

But the Bavarians thought differently, and sent a small force to compel them to pay a tribute, that was demanded of them; to insist on their demo-

lishing the towers to their houses; and that they should deliver up their arms. I was in company, at the President's, with one of the officers composing this ill-fated expedition, and much amused with listening to his comic singing. How greatly was I shocked, a few days after, to hear of his death, having been killed in an encounter with the Mainotes! The Bavarians were injudiciously led by their commander into a defile, between two rocks, which were nearly perpendicular, and connected with the chain of mountains which bounded the province of Maina. The natives suffered them to advance some distance into the pass, and were themselves perched amongst the cliffs and crags above, concealed behind pieces of rock, or among the stunted bushes,—some lying down, others on their knees, and, in fact, in all manner of positions, where they could but remain hidden, and take aim with advantage at their enemies; which they certainly did most effectually. At the signal given, all fired at once on their invaders, who fell in such numbers that those who remained unhurt, were so alarmed at such a destructive fire from an invisible foe, that they fled precipitately, abandoning their artillery and baggage, which was immediately

seized by the Mainotes, who, emerging from their concealment, without resistance, possessed themselves of the spoil. But not long were they allowed to retain it, as about forty Greek gens-d'-armes suddenly galloping upon them, the mountaineers were in their turn surprised; and imagining their assailants to be the advanced guard of a fresh corps, quickly scrambled up the mountains, leaving their newly gained prize to revert to its former owners. Thus were the same artillery, baggage, &c., in a few minutes recaptured by some forty Greeks, which had just before been lost by some hundred Bavarians. Prior to this affair the latter had ever been detested by the former; but with that detestation, *now* was mingled the most heartfelt contempt; the Greeks, from the occurrence they had just witnessed, having but a very poor idea of Bavarian courage. But in the above rencontre there were several palliating circumstances: most of the men composing the defeated corps were recruits from Munich, who never before had been exposed to fire, and, led into a trap as they were, far more experienced soldiers might have been appalled by the suddenness of the attack, as it is indisputable that there is no lack of bravery

amongst the Bavarians. On the contrary, they are ever ready to maintain their honour with their sabre's edge.

Several other encounters with the Mainotes proved as unsuccessful; but the details of these affairs were never permitted publicly to transpire: the particulars having been furnished to me by an officer who was employed to translate the bulletin from the Greek, as written on the scene of action, into French, for the use of the government; especial care being taken that the disastrous news should have as little circulation as possible. The official gazettes assured the public, that the war with the Mainotes was proceeding in the most favourable manner. Ultimately, by the influence of their prince, Mavromichali, a compromise was entered into, Maina engaging to conform partly to some of the demands made by the Bavarian government, on their agreeing to forego the most important of their exactions.

Indebted as they were, to the individual exertions of Petro Bey in arranging an accommodation with the rebellious province, it was not surprising that every attention should be paid to him and his family. His surviving son, young Mavromichali,

having a commission bestowed upon him, with the honour of wearing the newly introduced Bavarian uniform, instead of the picturesque costume of the Greeks; in which, I presume, he must have been seen by the author of "Pencillings by the Way," as he describes him as a perfect Adonis. That he was a good looking young man, and very amiable, cannot be denied; at the same time I cannot help thinking that the god of beauty would have been very justly indignant at the comparison. But I suspect, had the author alluded to, been a portrait painter, he would have taken very flattering likenesses; as, speaking of the Greek admiral, Miaulis, he observes that he was one of the most imposing and dignified personages he had ever beheld, and that he, the author, never felt more awed by the presence of any one than by that of the Greek admiral. Whilst the author of Cavendish, when describing the same person, declares he had seldom seen so insignificant a looking being. Whence this difference of opinion? can it arise from a difference of vision? Whilst, in a description of Miaulis, I must differ from both the gentlemen above quoted, by stating that he was neither dignified, nor in-

significant in his appearance, but looked like what he was, a rough but true-hearted honest sailor; his exterior, in my opinion, completely proclaiming his character: this is not always the case, and we are too apt in our mind's eye, to award a fine majestic form to one, whose heroic deeds we have been accustomed to hear recorded.

I had fallen into this error with regard to Canaris, the celebrated Brulotier, who with his fire-ship has dared the Turkish fleet, and with imperturbable courage has stood amidst the hail of their grape, until he has accomplished his object. Few men now existing have caused so many deaths as he, but it was in the service of his country, and therefore do we honour him. How was I surprised when I was first presented to Canaris, to find in him a person diminutive, a countenance plain and mean looking, and not one trait in his physical appearance that savoured of the hero; and I could almost suppose that he had some consciousness that his exterior was not the most prepossessing, as when I requested him to sit to me for his portrait, he always laughed, and declined; but being resolved to obtain it if possible, I took a boat, and, accompanied by Mr.

Black (the husband of the celebrated Maid of Athens), who was kind enough to act as interpreter, went on board the brig Canaris commanded, stating that I was arrived with the determination of quartering myself upon him, until he consented to my proposal; and, as there was no language common between us, I imagine that he concluded that we should be most annoying company for each other, he at length, the sooner to get rid of me, consented to sit, and sat "like patience on a monument smiling at grief," and, some days afterwards, went through the required repetitions of the operation with becoming resignation.

Few men are so respected as Canaris is, throughout Greece, and had many of her sons proved as able, active, and daring, her cause would have triumphed, without needing the battle of Navarin, or the interference of other governments; nor was the aid she received from the enthusiasm, and devotion of talented individuals from various countries so effectually serviceable as might have been expected.

When I left Greece, Canaris commanded a brig of about eighteen guns, being the largest ship in the Greek service; Miaulis having burnt the fleet

F Hervé delt

J.W. Giles Lithog.r

CANARIS.

London Published by Whittaker & Co.e Ave Maria Lane

A Dundas Lithog.r 70 St Martins Lane

that was confided to his charge, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Russians, who wished to have taken it under their protection at the time the affairs of Greece were in an unsettled state. For this act Miaulis was much applauded by the English and French party, and as much condemned by the Russian. Since that period Greece has been too poor to build ships, but has always an eye to her navy; in fact the genius of the people ever inclined to a maritime life, and few have carried on piracy with greater success than they did at one period; and even now, when any piratical vessel is captured anywhere in the Levantine seas, two thirds of the crew are always found to be Greek. The present government, anxious to introduce English naval tactics into their marine, have equipped a young Greek, who, with the consent of the English government, has been received in the British navy, being allowed the rank of lieutenant, the same as that he bore in the Greek navy. The uniform they have adopted is nearly the same as that of the English. Whilst he wore his native costume, he passed for an extremely fine young man; but, in his present dress, he does not appear to soar above mediocrity.

Fabvier, who entered the service of Greece soon after she hoisted the standard of independence, possessed every requisite to form a soldier; a frame of iron, a mind that no reverses could bend, and an experience of military life which had been acquired in the Napoleon wars; yet was he unfortunate in his career when he commanded Greek troops, except in his succour of the Acropolis of Athens, which he achieved under the most perilous circumstances; but, from the disastrous result of the battle fought on the plains adjacent to that city, was obliged to surrender his strong position by capitulation.

General Church was not ultimately more successful in his military operations, and most lamentably the reverse in the action just alluded to, yet, notwithstanding the reverses he has met with, few, if any, amongst the Philhellenists, are more beloved by the Greeks than he; mild in his disposition, amiable in his manners, and ever most disinterested in his conduct, he soon won the hearts of his soldiers, whose fatigues and privations he ever shared with exemplary cheerfulness.

Lord Dundonald was not happy in his hostile operations, notwithstanding it was supposed that

his high name alone would have carried so great a terror with it, as half to win the battle before a shot was fired; but he alleged, (no doubt, with justice,) as the cause of the comparative failure of his enterprises, the very indifferent crews which were assigned him.

General Gordon (then Colonel) may be ranked as one of the most zealous and persevering friends of Greece, having considerably aided her cause both with his fortune and his personal exertions, but never had a command of sufficient extent to have had any important influence on the contest then pending between Turkey and Greece; but in consequence of the incessant and active attachment he has continued to display for the latter country, has been promoted to the high military rank which he now holds.

Amongst the conspicuous characters who held official situations, one of the most prominent was Coletti, the Minister of the Interior. He and Mavrocordato had long been considered as rivals during the struggle for Greek independence; and in every form of government that was attempted prior to the arrival of Otho, those political opponents were always at the head of adverse factions.

Since the accession of the present King, policy seems to have suggested an apparent union of all parties; hence I have met Coletti at Mavrocordato's *soirées*, although no real friendship could exist between them. Coletti had formerly been the physician to Ali Pacha, and had resided with him at Yanina, the capital of Albania, and had also been, as it were, the confidential secretary of that sanguinary and wily chief. Coletti's conversation was to me highly interesting; he related many anecdotes of Ali Pacha, which were extremely entertaining, but which I shall not here state, as they have been mostly given in his memoirs, which are so universally known throughout Europe, and particularly in this country.

Coletti was considered as the centre of the French interest in Greece, and perhaps the man who had more influence over the Greeks than any individual existing. D'Armansperg, aware of this circumstance, was no sooner restored to power, after his sway had been virtually nullified by the influence of his enemies, than he resolved on removing Coletti, which was effected in the usual manner, that of making him an Ambassador; and, accordingly, he was sent to Paris. His demeanour

was remarkably imposing, having a sternness in his air which was at first forbidding, investing his manner and address with a dignified hauteur; but a short intercourse with him, soon dispelled any unpleasant impression which his first appearance might excite. A singular circumstance is related as proving how commanding an exterior he possessed:

One of the family of Grivas went twice into the presence of Coletti, with the intention of assassinating him, but, awed by the firmness of his aspect, his enemy was daunted, and retired without effecting his purpose, although at the last time he had his hand upon his dagger, prepared to strike.

One reason which has been given for the ill success of the foreign commanders, is their having attempted too suddenly to introduce the European military tactics amongst the Greek troops. There is no doubt that, could they have had some months training, they might have been drilled under the usual system, ultimately with the same success as any other men; but as they had frequently to enter the field of action, without any time being given to perfect them in the new exercises, which

they were required to practise, when they were brought forth to meet the enemy they were completely out of their element: accustomed as they had been to a guerilla kind of warfare, each man acted on his own account, and, screened amongst the rocks and underwood, being good marksmen, generally picked out their man; or, if obliged to come hand to hand with their opponent, they well knew how to use their sabre, their poinard, or their yatagan, as occasion might require; they therefore spurned at the idea of being made to stand like a machine, passively to receive the enemy's fire, and return it at command, turn right, or left as ordered,—in fact to be rendered a complete instrument, worked by their officer at his pleasure.

Amongst the many military men from various nations who have fought with the Greeks and resided amongst them, how few I have found who would admit that they possessed personal courage, yet, from what I have seen, heard, and read, I am convinced that, generally, bravery must form a prominent feature in their character, particularly if it were called forth to acquire property, or having acquired it, to defend it; in fact, when money was

at stake, I verily believe a Greek would face any danger; and it is but fair to state that I have heard General Church declare that he ever found them as firm in the hour of peril as the generality of troops of other countries, and no one could have had a better opportunity of judging than himself.

Perhaps it may be considered that I have made too sweeping a conclusion in stating that Greece has not produced any talented men, but all these general remarks are of course subject to exceptions; and one instance, I remember, of singular acuteness, displayed by one of their diplomatic agents, which, as a tribute to the genius of modern Greece, I hold myself bound to mention. The gentleman alluded to had just received his nomination to a court in civilized Europe, when with penetrating calculation he began to reflect, that it would be an absurdity in him to encumber himself on his journey to his embassy, with any of the elegancies and luxuries which peered amongst his goods and chattels, when proceeding to a country where they abounded; but that, on the contrary, he might dispose of them to considerable advantage in his own nation, where superfluities were expensive in proportion to their rarity. This

reflection made, the result of mature deliberation, he proceeded forthwith to put in practice that theory, which had so opportunely gleamed across his mind; and soon his searching eye darted upon a set of tea things, which he flattered himself he could turn to a good account; nor was he deceived.

The arrival of a gentleman of fortune, with the intention of settling in Greece, immediately suggested to the diplomatic dealer in crockery, a good market for his ware: accordingly, he sent a note instanter to inform the *nouvelle arrivé*, that being on the eve of quitting the country, he (the vender) should be happy to cede to the settler a tea equipage, which, it was presumed, would particularly suit his convenience, as it was his intention to remain in Greece. The offer was accepted; and a few evenings after I took tea at the house of the purchaser, when the mistress asked me how I liked her tea things, and, as politeness dictated, I praised them as much as the subject would admit, when the next question was, what did I suppose they cost? After thinking a minute, I guessed twenty-five dollars. Instantly I was declared an utter ignoramus, and pronounced

no judge whatever; and so I began to think I really was, when the lady informed me that the price was fifty-five dollars; but adding that she thought them extremely dear, and had even sent a representation that several articles were missing, and others cracked; whereupon five dollars were returned.

I happened to mention the circumstance to a merchant respecting the dear tea things, and the bad shot I had made, in guessing them at less than half the price they had been charged. The merchant smiled, telling me that he it was who sold them to the diplomatist for *twenty* dollars, about nine months before, and would show me the entry in his books whenever I pleased. This transaction, it must be admitted, proved the principal actor to be a man of extreme shrewdness, and one who well knew how to turn the circumstances of the moment to advantage; and I do not hesitate to say, if he does as well for his country as he did in the above instance for himself, that after such a debut in diplomacy, he may one day become the very beau ideal of diplomatists, and do much in supporting the very tottering fabric of the Greek government, which dissimulation and mis-

representation alone can pretend to state, will ever have any permanent political existence. But the gentleman need not fear that his abilities will ever be suffered to languish without employ or lucrative recompense, as, after having displayed such calculating acumen, Russia would, no doubt, be happy to avail herself of his services, as she is ever ready to enlist talent under her banners, no matter from what nation; even though Greek, she would not object.

CHAPTER V.

TRAVELLING IN GREECE—APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY—BAD ROADS—EPIDAURUS—COMFORTLESS QUARTERS—THE RATS—WET MUDDY FLOOR—A PIG—AN EGG—GREEK RASCALITY—PICTURESQUE RUINS—SCARCITY OF PROVISIONS—FORTUNATE SUPPLY—ROUGH SEA—ÆGINA—THE TOWN AND ENVIRONS—GREEK CAPTAIN—HIS NOBLE EXTERIOR, AND GALLANT CONDUCT—GREEK HOSPITALITY—ADMIRATION OF BYRON—IGNORANCE OF GREEK FEMALES—PUT TO SEA AGAIN—TEDIOUS PROGRESS—LAND TRAVELLING ADVISED.

I STARTED from Napoli for Epidaurus with an Italian merchant and his wife; and, although my luggage was little more than a change of linen, was obliged to hire two horses, the one for myself, and the other for my baggage, the principal article of which was my mattress, this being the regular custom with travellers in Greece, where no description of bedding is to be found at the khans or houses of accommodation on the road.

A total dearth of trees renders this country rather desolate in its appearance; and though the mountains are extremely high, and of the most wild

83374

and picturesque forms, the mind soon tires of the barren melancholy stillness which reigns around. However, at the first view, one is enchanted with the bold romantic heights which bound the scene on every side, and which give to Greece an air of solemn grandeur, which is truly imposing. This is beautiful to the eye of the passing stranger, but let him reside for some length of time amongst this sublime desolation, and see with what rapture, on his return to civilized climes, he will greet the green meadow, the smiling corn-field, and every object which tells of social life.

From Napoli to Epidaurus is about twenty four miles: not one house cheers the road side, in all that distance, although it is the most frequented road from Napoli (at that time the capital) to Athens. Now and then appeared a shepherd with a flock of goats, most highly picturesque, but looking very solitary and miserable. Occasionally, at a short distance, we could see the ruins of cottages, and sometimes of villages, which told a tale of wretchedness, and marked the progress of the spoiler's hand, where war had given an unbridled license to her ruffian host. We baited at a fountain, which was situated at about half the distance

we had to perform: it was the spot where travellers generally met to refresh, as also the country people for miles round; but we found no one there, and, after having recruited our strength and spirits, resumed our journey, which is extremely annoying, from the slow and tedious pace at which one is compelled to proceed; the men belonging to the horses accompanying us on foot, thereby limiting our progress to their convenience.

There were none but bridle roads, which sometimes were through bogs that were too muddy for our companions on foot to penetrate, and they had to make circuits, whilst we were forced to wait for them, thus retarding our movements. It is true many parts of the road were such as could not ever be passed over with much rapidity, the shelving rocks sometimes forming completely stone steps, in descending which the horses frequently fall, and considerably damage their riders. We passed through one spot which was most singularly beautiful, the mountains being covered with innumerable varieties of brushwood, presenting a curious diversity of all the gayest colours that fancy could depict: at an immense depth beneath us we could see a hurrying stream gurgling through

the valley, and here and there, peeping between the variegated foliage; amongst the numberless shrubs through which we had to thread our way, most conspicuously appeared the arbutus, very plentifully adorned with their deep scarlet berries, which, without dismounting or stopping an instant, I gathered, and found them most refreshing. At length, about dusk, and in a shower of rain, we arrived at the once far-famed Epidaurus.

Oh! how I could have wished for an English inn, with all the delicious comforts that appertain to that dear refuge of the wanderer, that ever welcomed traveller's home! But I was in Greece, and above all, in that misery-stricken Epidaurus. I entered with my companions a sort of hovel. We were cold and wet, and saw little chance of redress to our grievances. A fire on the floor there certainly was, but almost invisible, from the number of grim ill-looking figures which were around it, some squatted on the ground, others bending over them, in order to inhale a sniff of smoke and heat. Chairs or tables there were none, but some boxes, forming part of my companions' baggage, were arranged as seats, of one of which I availed myself, and was quietly contemplating the savage

looking group around me, when I found the rain was amusing itself by pattering on my bare head, entering very unceremoniously from a hole in the roof just above me.

This splendid hotel had no other flooring than the unsophisticated earth; windows it had none, nor chimney, but its absence was not felt, as in the many apertures between the tiles, the smoke had free egress. The principal piece of furniture, nay, the only one which I remember, was such as I observed in almost all the Greek cottages, viz., a sort of table, reaching from one end of the house to the other, resembling most a tailor's shop-board, or a counter; on this the family sits, or rather squats; there they also do every species of work, and on it they spread their bedding; in fact, it answers the purpose to them of table, chair, and bedstead, and on this they hauled my mattress; and being bed time, I, like the other inmates of the dismal den in which we were stowed, sought the blessed state of forgetfulness.

But alas! it was not so easy to forget the disgusting torments with which I was surrounded, for I had not lain down five minutes before three great rats came romping, and tumbling within a

few inches of my nose: I was regularly horrified; the Lady of General G. having previously entertained me on the passage with anecdotes respecting the biting of rats in the East, she, and all her sisters, having been dreadfully bitten by them at Constantinople. But at last, after many very disagreeable cogitations, "tired nature's sweet restorer," came to my relief. The next morning I caused the circumstance, through the means of an interpreter, to be mentioned to my host, not wishing another night to be exposed to the mercy of such bedfellows. In answer, he very coolly replied, "Then the gentleman did not want for company." Another misfortune befel me: when I mounted the great shop-board to go to bed, I had left my boots on the ground; consequently, in descending the next morning was bootless, and it being very dark, I did not perceive where I stepped, and set my foot in a hole in the floor, which the entrance of the rain from the aperture above had converted into a pool of black mud, giving me in appearance a half boot, but so cold, wet, and filthy that as I drew off my nasty beplastered stocking, I could not help execrating the Greeks, their dirty ways, and their beastly hovels.

Yet I was much better off than a friend of mine, who arrived at Epidaurus at another period, and was not so fortunate as to be conducted, as I was, to the best inn in the place, but was ushered into one considerably inferior, where they had not even the aforesaid shop-board; consequently, his mattress was laid on the floor, which was as usual the unspoiled earth; but, having observed that there was a great pig, which appeared to have the run of the house, he began to entertain sundry suspicions that the pig would be walking upon him in the night, whilst he might be asleep, and communicated his apprehensions to his landlord and landlady, who assured him that the pig never went into that corner where his mattress was laid. My friend, however, could not understand why that spot should be more respected than the rest by this ambulating swine, and retired to his pillow, very sceptical on the subject, his doubts, and fears for a long time keeping him awake. At length fatigue and drowsiness operating upon him, he sank into the arms of Morpheus. How long he had remained in that delicious state of unconsciousness is hard to say, when he was disturbed by a tremendous pressure on his cheek; and

naturally turning his head, the pig's foot (for it was the pig's self that pressed) slipped into his mouth, being well charged with an accumulation of mud and filth, collected in its nocturnal promenades.

My unfortunate friend sprung on his feet spitting and spluttering, endeavouring to clear his mouth of its unwelcome contents; at the same time with stentorian voice vociferating an anathema against the accursed hut and its inmates, he rushed into the air and sought a brook that "babbled by," and there performed an ablution which had become highly necessary. As he regained some degree of composure he stalked about the deserted village, contemplating the moon, content to find so clean a looking object whereon to fix his gaze, where so much dirt surrounded him; and, after wearing away the time till sunrise, presuming that his host, and family would have risen, and consequently be on the *qui vive* to prevent his new acquaintance, the pig, from again treating him with such indecorous familiarity, he once more entered his loathsome quarters; and having received an assurance from his landlord, that his slumbers should not again be intruded upon, he at

length took to his bed, hoping to obtain one refreshing nap, to recruit his spirits for the continuation of his journey. But ah, delusive hopes! in lying down he felt a hard lump under him which instantly broke with a queer sort of squash, emitting a liquid, which, as the Americans would say, *pretty considerably* wetted him; and starting up, and examining the cause, from the state of the tail of his shirt a piteous tale was elicited, from which it appeared, that during his absence a hen had found his bed a very warm comfortable place, and had crept into it, and there laid an egg, and he lying thereupon had crushed it, and by that means had befouled his linen!

To return to my own case: I soon recovered my calm, after my more trifling mishaps, and at the first opportunity emerged from my rat-hole; but, as I pique myself much upon my impartiality, and am determined not to suffer dislikes or prejudices to influence my opinion to the disparagement of any one, so that when they merit praises I may even eulogise my enemies, from that same Christian spirit, I feel myself bound to declare, that however those rats to whom I have alluded were obnoxious to me, yet I must say they were the finest

of the description of any that I ever beheld: I am certain that some of them would have measured at least eighteen inches from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail, and were equally stout in proportion, and I have no doubt but that amongst their own coterie they were considered complete models of their race!

Our first care on sallying forth, was to discover what vessels there were in the port bound for Athens; and we found many open boats, and one galliot of a respectable size: this then was our object, and finding the captain, we arranged for the price of our passage. In him we had a specimen of true Greek rascality: he stated that there was not sufficient wind at the moment for him to put to sea, at the same time that the small boats were all departing, which we remarked to him, but were answered that they, by making use of their oars, might make way, but that he must wait for a breeze; and having seen the last boat double the most distant point, he then coolly told us that now that there was no vessel left by which we could depart but his, we must pay double the price we had agreed for!—this the wretch said with a ghastly grin;—oh, how ugly the brute was!

We were determined not to countenance the scoundrel's imposition, and decided on waiting, with the hope that other boats might arrive; but contrary winds springing up, we were obliged to wait at this forlorn place four days, and had full leisure to examine its localities. It is said to have once possessed a population of a hundred thousand souls, and now there are but, perhaps, some thirty habitations, scarcely meriting the name of houses. The walls of its ancient boundaries are to be seen in fragments, proving how great must have been its former extent, and at a short distance I found some most picturesque ruins, which must have formed a part of an immense building. I could not learn that there were any traditions or records concerning them, that could give the remotest idea as to what they had formerly been, but, from the style of architecture, and some peculiarities, such as funnels or very small channels conducted through the walls, I conjectured for giving free passage to smoke, I should imagine they had been Roman baths. Such was the extreme poverty of this place, that we could neither procure meat, vegetables, nor fish, although a port, and the sea almost washing the base of their

houses. This was entirely the consequence of the extreme indolence of the inhabitants. I never anywhere saw a finer and richer soil, but the men were too lazy to cultivate it, or to supply that labour necessary, to avail themselves of the advantages the Ocean afforded them; but, as they cared not for comforts, nor for a more generous mode of living than could be supplied by rice, onions, olives, black bread, coffee, and sometimes a little brandy, they had no incentive to render them industrious, and all their ideas of happiness appeared to consist, in passing the whole of their time smoking at the coffee-houses; the one at which I had the misfortune to be stationed, had a constant supply of these lazy lusty visitors.

The besotted ignorance of these people is most remarkable. My watch having stopped, I asked what was o'clock, but found that there was not any person in the place, that had any idea of the division of time, farther than sunrise and sunset. What we should have done for food in this desolate hole I know not, had it not been for two gentlemen of the name of Upton, who arrived in their yacht, and made me a present of a brace of partridges, but who only staid a few hours, and a

German Baron who shared his provision with us, having more than he required, as he was only proceeding to Egina. We had merely provided ourselves for three days, imagining that it could not occupy more than that time from Napoli to Athens, instead of which it took us nine days, and only twenty-four hours to return; such is the extreme uncertainty when one has to depend on winds and waves.

At last my patience being quite exhausted, I insisted on putting to sea, as soon as the wind, which was still contrary, somewhat abated. Accordingly, at midnight I was aroused, and bidding a final adieu to the rats, entered the boat: it had no deck, and the sea still running high, dashed upon us as we lay at the bottom of our crazy bark; the sailors requesting us to lie down, as being the least in their way, whilst running to and fro to shift the sails. I soon found we made but little way, and that all I had gained by quitting my late companions was change of scene, and change of misery, for nothing could be more disagreeable than our situation: coats, cloaks, and all our paraphernalia were soon wetted through, which, whilst one is in exercise is a trifle, but in a posi-

tion where we could scarcely move, is intolerable; and though in so mild a climate, I that night found the cold very severe.

Our sailors were old men, and had not sufficient activity in the management of their sails to take advantage of the tacks; and after beating about all night, we found ourselves when daylight appeared nearing Egina, which was only about half way to Athens. The seamen asked us if we would put in to that island, the wind still being so contrary, that it was almost impossible to proceed. We gladly assented; but when exactly opposite the very point at which we were to land, it was long before we reached the shore. Though the town of Egina offers few attractions, I was glad to set my foot on an island so often named in the most ancient history. It is from Egina that we have the medals or coins of the greatest antiquity, that is, as early as eight hundred years before Christ, Egina being at that period a piratical republic: at present it is difficult to imagine a more melancholy looking place. Capo d'Istrias having decided that it should be the capital of Greece, many persons had been induced to settle there, and numbers to build: now there are whole streets

uninhabited; and many of the houses having fallen to decay, present a most miserable appearance.

I know not any thing so desolate-looking and so uninteresting as these modern ruins, some consisting of houses inhabited only a few years since, others that had never been finished; as when the king and court fixed their residence at Napoli, all the works already in progress at Egina were suspended, and speculators then began to build with avidity at Napoli, which has now in its turn been abandoned for Athens. The poverty-stricken looking people, and the yellow squalid faces which one sees at every door, heightens the forlorn aspect which reigns throughout this deserted city.

There are several objects of high interest to be seen in this island; amongst them is one supposed to be of extreme antiquity, the column of Venus; also a most extraordinary piece of mosaic work, at a short distance from it; and the temple of Jupiter, at a remote part of the island. In the town is a museum of specimens of ancient sculpture, which, by the order of Capo d'Istrias, were collected and here arranged in a building assigned for that purpose. Here also is a college for the education

of boys, established by the same person, and, when we were there, more numerously attended than I could have expected. The interior of the island presents some beautiful spots; and I found ample temptation for sketching during my forced stay of four days, for which period we were obliged to hire an empty room, the only inn in the place being so full that they could not receive us. Some acquaintances of my fellow travellers lent us a chair, a stool, and a bench, and that which was still more useful, a mangale; a sort of brasier, or brass vase, which is much in use throughout the East for burning charcoal. However, all was pretty miserable, notwithstanding these auxiliaries; but in one respect we were better off than at Epidaurus, having found the means of stopping all the rat holes; therefore, we were not annoyed by those gentry.

Whilst in these comfortless quarters, we received a visit from a Greek captain and his wife. I never before saw a man who had so completely the air of the ancient warrior; his costume was splendid, in the best style of what is usually termed Albanian; his features were not large, but perfectly regular; his dark eyes were full of fire and

quickness; his complexion that bright olive, which one finds alone in the East; his mustachios black and glossy as silk, and his jetty hair fell in bold curls wildly about his neck, and gave a most picturesque appearance to his manly head; his stature was not much above the middle height, but his breadth of chest, the smallness of his waist, and well-turned limbs, all seemed in a just proportion, while the natural boldness of his attitudes, the unstudied dignity of his step, and the ever independent air which characterised all his movements, gave a daring appearance to his person, which proclaimed the fearless chief.

An extraordinary instance of his prowess was related to me, by which he was said to have saved his regiment from total destruction; which was, as nearly as I could understand, as follows; but having been recounted to me in bad French, I cannot pledge myself for the exactness of all the details. The corps to which he belonged had the charge of defending a fortress, which was besieged by the Turks; and the Greeks seeing a favourable opportunity of attacking their assailants, agreed upon a sortie, which at first succeeded; but the Mussulmen being reinforced, their opponents soon

found that a retreat into their stronghold was their only salvation. A small body of their enemies having perceived this, had contrived to penetrate between the Greeks and the fort, with the intention of either getting in themselves, or closing the gates against their flying foe, and thus cutting off their escape. The handsome captain to whom I have alluded, and whose name was something like Balastchar, as nearly as I could catch it, seeing their intention, by dint of his superior activity, arrived there first, and with his sabre in his right hand, and his yatagan in his left, maintained his post for some seconds, against the assaults of the numbers who pressed upon him, until the arrival of his friends, who soon put to flight those Turks who were nearest to the gates, and thus secured their retreat before the greater body of the enemy could come up. Balastchar dropped at the instant his comrades arrived, covered with wounds, received both from pistol shots, and from sabre cuts.

I took a slight sketch of him; and he informed me that an artist had made a complete portrait of him on horseback, at whose solicitation he had consented to sit. This circumstance alone must

have taught him well to appreciate the superiority of his external appearance, if he had not before been fully conscious of it. He had entirely recovered from the injuries he had received in defending the gates of the fortress. From the position which he occupied, it was explained to me that more than three could not attack him at a time, the archway in which he stood not affording room for more than that number to use their sabres with effect against him, otherwise it would have been impossible for him to have sustained the attack of so superior a force; but, admitting some latitude for exaggeration, it was allowed to have been a most extraordinary instance of heroism and devotion to his cause.

We returned his visit, and were regaled according to the usual Greek fashion, a servant bringing in a waiter, with coffee, some kind of preserve, and water; the mistress of the house, or the daughter, if there be one, then presents you with a cup of coffee, inserted in a little gold or silver stand worked in fillagree, and sometimes extremely elegant. The same fair one then hands you a large glass vessel, containing jams or jellies of some description, of which you take a spoonful, then

put the spoon in a silver tankard, which is exclusively for that purpose; lastly, you finish with a draught of water. You are then offered a pipe, which I, being no smoker, was always obliged to reject. In this respect I was singular, as it appeared to me that every man but myself, come from where he would, by the time he reached the East, had acquired the habit of smoking.

It always struck me that there was something of romance that was interesting, in being thus served by the young lady of the house, instead of suffering that office to be performed by servants. This custom once prevailed in our own country, and in many others, some centuries back; the ladies of the house themselves attending on the stranger, being considered the most distinguished mark of hospitality; and this is one of the many instances which I have met with, which have proved to me that it is in the East that you find still preserved many of our most ancient customs, which have in our climes long fallen into disuse.

Some of the mountain chiefs had a most enthusiastic admiration for Lord Byron: one of them who was talking to me about him, after expatiating most eloquently upon his numerous superior

qualities, terminated by observing, in fact, he was completely Greek, even to such a degree that when he perspired, he used to wipe his face with his fostanella, in the same unaffected manner as would any Greek peasant!

But in these parts of the world it is often amusing to meet with incidents which prove the simplicity, and total want of information, of some of the females, even of the highest classes. I was passing the evening at a merchant's villa near Smyrna, where the Greek customs are as prevalent as in Greece, and on entering found the rooms filled with company. The heat being excessive, I, like many others, quitted the house, after making my obeisance to its mistress, to lounge about the cool walks in the garden. I had struck into a dark avenue, but not so dark but that on turning round I could perceive a fine female form, all clad in flowing white, approaching me, bearing a cup in her hand, which, as might be surmised, contained coffee, she having been sent by the lady of the house with the usual offering; and as the bearer was considered the beauty of Smyrna, in returning my thanks I observed, that she made me too proud, that I could

absolutely imagine myself Jupiter attended by *such* a Hebe; when she asked with much naiveté, "Et qui sont Monsieur Jupiter et Mademoiselle Hebe," having just sagacity sufficient to place the sexes rightly. I explained; but as the young lady was not so celebrated for the quickness of her intellect, as for her personal charms, I do not think she ever understood my definition.

Another similar instance occurred to me also at Smyrna. A very handsome girl was accustomed of an evening to seat herself on the terrace of her house; having often observed her gazing towards one quarter, I asked what object so rivetted her attention: she replied it was her favourite evening star, which at that period was Venus. I remarked that in that case she certainly displayed much vanity, in being so fond of contemplating her own portrait. A whole group of young ladies were present, but not one comprehended my meaning, until I had been compelled to give a detailed explanation, when the pretty unlearned observed, for the future she should not forget who Venus meant.

But to return to Egina: the turbulence of the winds having in some degree subsided, we began

to hope there was some prospect of departure: numbers of vessels of various sizes were waiting for a favourable opportunity, and having compelled our boatmen to engage another hand, younger, and more active than themselves, we were the first to put to sea, and the example was soon followed by all the other boats; and we had in a very short time the satisfaction of seeing them all pass us, owing to the clumsiness of our sailors, and perhaps the heaviness of our bark. Certain it is, although we were the first to start, we were the last to arrive, and were doomed to pass another night at sea, not reaching the Piræan shore till the break of day.

The passage from Epidaurus to Athens is sometimes attended with the greatest inconvenience. Prince Cantacuzeno told me he was once obliged to pass five days on a little island, which was nothing more than a piece of rock, the wind having become so violent that it was impossible to keep the sea in their little bark. Fortunately they had a tolerable stock of provisions, and by the help of their sails they made up a sort of tent, sufficient to keep out wind and weather. Such has been the state of the elements in the

Ægean sea in some winters, that persons have been detained a fortnight on one of those islands. In the winter of 1832, a French ship of the line was wrecked in these seas. Mr. Black was once compelled to take refuge on one of those rocky isles, and was kept there by stormy weather for three days, not having any provision whatever; yet he dared not put to sea in his crazy caique, as it would have been certain destruction. The Northern winds prevail so constantly in winter and spring in this quarter, that it is far better to go all the way by land from Napoli to Athens, by Corinth, than to proceed to Epidaurus with the expectation of meeting with a favourable wind.

CHAPTER VI.

ATHENS—ITS IMPOSING APPEARANCE—DIFFERENT STYLES OF ARCHITECTURE—RUINS OF VARIOUS EPOCHS—NUMEROUS INTERESTING OBJECTS—MIDSHIPMAN'S FREAK—CONSERVATOR OF ANTIQUITIES—HIS MISTAKES—ANCIENT COSTUME—RAPID VISIT OF SOME ENGLISHMEN—RUSSIAN CONSUL—HIS UNBOUNDED HOSPITALITY—SOCIETY AT ATHENS—CLAIMANTS OF THE GOVERNMENT LANDS IN GREECE—ENCOURAGEMENT NOT GIVEN TO SETTLERS—DEARTH OF TREES IN GREECE—EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT—CHANGING THE NATIONAL COSTUME—GREEKS HARD TO GOVERN—THEIR INDOLENT HABITS—QUARREL BETWEEN AN ITALIAN AND GREEK—PRODUCE OF THE COUNTRY.

PIRÆUS, where we landed, is a very small port, scarcely even deserving that name, about six miles from Athens. Never shall I forget my first view of that interesting city: a blue mist enveloped the space between us, and this once mighty metropolis; even its suburbs were obscured by the same dewy veil, which exhaled from the extensive plains surrounding it, while its splendid Acropolis towered above this etherial cloud, and appeared as a majestic palace sus-

pended in the heavens. No other object was visible, nature having wrapped all beneath it in an aërial vapour; the polished marble columns of the Parthenon, of a bright orange tint, reflected the rays of the rising sun, and were hardly less brilliant than that resplendent orb, from which they received their light. It is as impossible for any one to conceive the grand sublimity of the scene, as it is for me to describe it. I took out my pencil, endeavouring to trace some sketch, that might afford me a memento of so imposing a sight, but soon renounced the thought, perceiving the presumption of the attempt.

As we advanced, the mist became gradually dispelled, and with it a great portion of the charm, for as the veil was slowly drawn aside, the unsightly buildings of Athens began to appear; the nearer we approached, the more did the number of these objects increase, and proved clearly to me that clouds and distance lent enchantment to the view. After the mind has had the high gratification of beholding one of the finest edifices that art and science could produce, enhanced by every association that the love of antiquity could inspire, how revolting to the tone of one's feelings

is it, to see a parcel of white wooden boxes of houses, rising amongst the most picturesque and venerable ruins, that have ever stood the storms of time.

Perhaps no town in the world possesses such an extraordinary melange of different styles of buildings as Athens, which may be accounted for, from its having fallen under so many masters, each of whom has left some specimen of the architectural style of their nation; first, and pre-eminent of course, are the magnificent monuments of ancient Greece, which all date about the same epoch, from between four and five hundred years before Christ; and while on the subject, it is worthy of remark that those columns most exposed to the sun, have assumed that rich colour, partaking of a reddish yellow brown, which presents a most resplendent appearance when the sun shines upon it; but that part which remains in the shade is of a much tamer tint.

It certainly inspires one with wonder and admiration to behold these massive pillars, which have stood for so many ages, still retaining all their pristine majesty: could they but have the gift of speech, what wonders could they relate of

scenes that have passed beneath their capitals, and with what avidity should we hearken to their recitals.

Next in antiquity are a few Roman remains, but those which I found peculiarly interesting, were some of the old Byzantine churches, being of a most curious style of architecture, many of them half mouldering to decay, covered with various descriptions of mosses, which give them a most picturesque appearance. Some Venetian towers are to be seen, raising their heads amongst their more venerable neighbours; other objects of interest are to be found amongst the great lumbering old Turkish houses, many of them retaining somewhat of the Moresque, others of an architecture so singular and grotesque, that they defy all description. The Greek habitations of the same standing, though totally foreign to what we are accustomed to, possess no style that can be defined, but have a whimsicality about them that attracts the stranger's eye. Thus all contribute to form the most extraordinary confusion of buildings that ever was congregated together in the same city.

But last, and most unsightly, are the new

erections, which have been constructed by foreigners, who, having purchased property in and about Athens, have built snug neat-looking dwellings (something like those which the London citizens choose for their country houses, when they wish to display their rural taste), far more offensive to the eye than any of the *other* habitations. As however *they* may be discordant in style and date, yet there is something that savours not of that common-place to which we are so accustomed at home, and of which we are now quite weary. On the contrary, with the exception of the above mentioned modern innovations, most of the streets and buildings in Athens have some feature about them which tells of other times, and gives a sort of keeping to the whole.

At almost every turn and corner, ruins rise before you, some as ancient as nearly three thousand years, others of the middle ages, and some, perhaps the greater number, as recent as within the last fifteen years, bearing evidence of the execution of Turkish artillery. I verily believe an artist might live in Athens seven years, and sketch all day and every day, and still find some object picturesque, and interesting for his

pencil to trace. I shall not attempt a detailed description of the splendid specimens of architecture of ancient Greece, as to the height of their columns, their bulk, the extent of their intercolumniations, &c. &c.; but shall refer the reader to those works where these particulars are most faithfully registered.

I pore but little over the minutia of these elevated subjects, content to view their general effect: and, take Athens altogether, I doubt if there be any other spot in the world, containing objects more enchanting to the antiquary, the artist, the historian, or in fact to any one who is capable of appreciating the beautiful and the sublime. The climate is generally considered to be remarkably fine, but in that respect I was unfortunate, as it rained all the time I was there, which was during the months of November and December. In fact, so few were the fine intervals, that I was obliged to make my sketches whilst the rain kept falling, and blotching my paper. At that period there was but one passable inn in the place, and their charges were proportioned accordingly; but I owe the landlord some good-will, as, on hearing I was an artist, he put me

in a room looking on the temple of Theseus, perhaps the most perfect and entire of the Athenian monuments.

A short time before my arrival, a most interesting discovery had taken place. Some frieze had been dug up of immense antiquity, having been found under the foundation of some part of the Acropolis. The subjects were in mezzo relievo, and remarkably fine; all more or less damaged, but not enough so to please the taste of some people, as a party of young midshipmen who had landed from an English frigate, having obtained permission to see these specimens of antique sculpture, one of them for a *lark*, no doubt as they would style it, broke off the nose from one of the figures. Signor Pittacki, the conservator, appointed by the Greek government, of these works of art, absolutely wept with vexation.

As far as affection for the objects of antiquity committed to his care be desirable, no one could be more fitted for his office than Signor Pittacki; but with respect either to classical or general information, he is certainly most lamentably deficient. I had a particular letter of introduction to him, requesting his granting me every facility for

sketching such remains as the Museum, or, in fact, the government collection afforded. He informed me that he was writing a work on the antiquities of Greece, with which he soon intended to indulge the public; but, from his conversation, I soon found how very shallow was his erudition on the subject; and in his description to me of different objects, he designated all as basso relievos, whereas many of which he spoke were mezzo relievo, and some even alto relievo. I explained to him the distinction, for which he thanked me, declaring he never knew the difference before, but thought that all sculpture raised from a stone groundwork, but still attached to it, was called bas relief, but he would take care to give the proper definition in his threatened book.

One day he discovered a figure which was dug up some feet beneath the surface of the ground, which he named after some hero, of whom he had read in history, and would have described it as such in his work, but fortunately for him a gentleman happened to pass by, and the moment he saw the disinterred statue, observed such proportions as plainly proved it to be a woman, which he remarked to Pittacki, who was thankful for

the information, observing, that he should dilate upon the circumstance in his book, and certainly class his relic in the female gender!

Pittacki is cicerone-general to almost all the strangers who arrive at Athens, and is ever very communicative and obliging; and, in taking leave, always presents you the prospectus of his book, solicits the honour of your name, and receives your subscription with great complacency. I was both astonished and gratified that he did not pay me the compliment of asking me to subscribe, but suppose he thought that a wandering artist had hardly money enough to pay his way, and therefore spared me. He was quite right, and I was about to applaud his discernment, when I found it was his intention to bleed me in another way, having the modesty to ask me to make him a present of the portraits of his wife and three children, which I with equal modesty declined, *pro tempore*. The fact was, he had done nothing for me which took him an instant out of his usual routine. He accompanied me, it is true, to the Acropolis, and which was a journey he had to perform every morning, being one of the avocations which was incidental to the appointment

which he held. I, therefore, considering myself under no obligations to him, postponed the affair of the portraits *sine die.*

In one of the subjects from the chisel of some sculptor, who must have lived a thousand years before Christ, I found a proof of the extreme antiquity of the costume which the Greeks now wear. A man is represented stepping into a chariot, having a fostenella in large plaits or folds, precisely the same as worn at the present day. The Romans also adopted something of the same description of garment, from the waist to the knees, the form exactly similar, but, instead of being only of white linen, was composed of various materials, and what it lost in simplicity, it gained in ornament; but this piece of drapery, with the Greeks, has not varied, it appears, from what it was three thousand years since, and in Scotland is still to be found in the highlands of various coloured plaid.

It is curious to reflect how very little some persons interest themselves in works of art or science—how insensible to the beauties of nature —how callous to those feelings which are engendered by associations, arising from the contempla-

tion of objects which are the only relics of centuries past, and which alone can recal to our minds that of which we have read, but which still remains imperfectly revealed; obscured as it is by the veil of time, and presenting to our view the scenes of other days, as a romantic picture of interesting mystery; yet, true it is, that two English gentlemen arrived in their yacht at the Piræus, and proceeded up to Athens, which they reached at ten at night, and left it before it was light at four o'clock the next morning, content that they could then say, that they had been at Athens!

That there are beings in the world as dead to every intellectual feeling as these persons must have been, I can understand; but that such men should travel for pleasure, insensible as they must be to all the delights that travelling can afford, is really more than I can comprehend. I so doubted the circumstance that I inquired of Cassali (my landlord), as I had heard that it was at his house they had arrived, if it were the fact: he assured me it was, as he was the person who received them on their arrival at night, and opened the gates for them the next morning before dawn to

depart; providing them with horses, men, &c., for their return to Piræus. At this confirmation I blushed for my countrymen, as several foreigners were present when the affair was recounted.

Hospitality in the East is carried very far. When I arrived at Athens, I delivered a letter I had received from the Russian ambassador to the Russian consul, M. Paparigopolo: the latter immediately invited me to make his house my home during my stay at Athens, which I declined, not wishing to commit such an intrusion on a total stranger, nor, in fact, to lose my liberty, which ever must be the case when on a visit, and which is particularly inconvenient when at any place for the purpose of seeing its wonders, as one must be limited to certain hours for repasts, &c., or in some degree, incommode the family. M. Paparigopolo appeared distressed at my refusal, but was not allowed to regret it many minutes, as immediately after my rejection of his hospitality, a Russian General entered, named Osterman, attended by his physician, an aide-de-camp, an interpreter, a secretary, and his antiquarian, who certainly had not the same scruples as myself; as he at once asked M. Paparigonpolo to receive him

and his suite, for the time they might sojourn at Athens. The request met with instant acquiescence.

I cannot but think that Athens will one day become a favourite residence with the English, and that it will be visited by them almost as frequently as Rome. The site is considered remarkably healthy; the country around, has rather a barren aspect, and the soil is certainly very poor, which has been noticed by several of the ancient authors; but the scenery has a very romantic appearance, from the bold outline of the surrounding mountains, which, on some points, are bounded by the sea. In a short time, nature will be assisted by art; and the environs of Athens will no doubt be considerably improved. Now that it has become the seat of government, there must be an abundance of society; the court, all the embassies, the consulates, and the appointments of the highest order, all are concentrated at the capital, and they before had a circle, consisting of a few families, sufficient to chase solitude, and to cause their evenings to pass most agreeably.

Had the rulers of Greece apportioned out the

millions of acres, which they possessed, and proclaimed them to the world at large for sale, at a low price, they would have soon attracted that, which one of the regents remarked to me, they most wanted, capital and population. Who would emigrate to the Cape, Van Diemen's Land, America, &c., when they could have the same advantages in Europe, where the contiguity to ports affords a certain market for their produce? or, in case of total failure of crops, in an untoward year, where they could be as certain of supply from other nations?—whilst in those distant climes one fatal season has been followed by a deadly famine, as occurred some years since in Africa.

I once remarked to one of the ministers, my surprise that they had not availed themselves of so valuable a property, instead of suffering so many square miles of the richest soil to lie totally profitless. He replied that it was a most difficult and delicate affair to manage; that, amongst the numerous chiefs who had taken part in the struggle, many there were whose various claims and pretensions could never be satisfied, without exciting the most serious discords and endless jealousies; and, therefore, they kept deferring a

work which they knew to be pregnant with so much danger.

This but displayed a consciousness of their own weakness. Influenced by this feeling, they have suffered four years to elapse, and still the waste lands remain as unproductive as they were when Otho first came to Greece, in 1833. The insufficiency of the revenue is such as scarcely to afford a hope that it can ever defray the expences of the government; even admitting that it increase to the extravagant estimate that some of the most sanguine calculators have thought proper to predict: nor could I ever find any rational being, well acquainted with the resources of the country, that could foresee by what means Otho's kingdom is to be supported, except by a succession of loans from other powers; and, as the securities that she might have given are already anticipated, and she has at present a debt that it would take a century to liquidate, I know not where she can be likely always to find speculators to supply the funds necessary to her existence; whereas, had she but held out a liberal encouragement to settlers, her advantage would not only have accrued from the sums she

would have received from the sale of her lands, but the capital brought by each purchaser into the country, for the requisite expenses of cultivation, maintenance of an establishment, &c., would have been felt throughout the whole kingdom.

Prior to the arrival of the Bavarians, several individuals of fortune, purchased lands in Athens and its vicinity, and have been of the greatest service to that city; but the present government have rather embarrassed those gentlemen's exertions, than facilitated them; some of whom, wishing to dispose of their property, in smaller proportions, to different parties, were impeded by the authorities, at first disputing the lines of demarcation, which defined the boundaries of their properties, then promising to appoint commissioners to settle the question: this they so postponed, that the persons inclined to purchase got tired of waiting, and no longer held themselves bound to their original engagements.

In one instance, these Bavarian blunderers came upon the estate of a friend of mine, and cut down some of his trees, imagining all the time that they were at work upon the national lands. When

they discovered their error, which they would not acknowledge until my friend had been at the utmost pains and trouble to convince them, they did certainly apologise; but half a century would not replace the trees as they were before; and a tree in Greece is worth its weight in gold, not only from its rarity, but from the heat of the climate rendering shade so desirable. Few countries in the world are so deficient in that charm, so delicious to the traveller, so requisite to his repose, after his exposure to such a sun as that of Greece, when it is remembered that it is in that country we find the most southern point of the continent of Europe.

The Turks, in the late war, cut down every tree that came in their way, when they wanted fuel, which was not surprising in an enemy's country; but the Greeks followed the same plan, though to their common injury; so that between them they have not left a tree in those parts which were traversed by either of the armies, except the fig, the wood of which, as it will not burn kindly, was unmolested, if any other were near. True it is, that there are some few spots, which lay so remote from any town, village, or

even habitation, that they escaped the observation of the hostile marauder; and, here and there a few stunted looking olives, rear their melancholy heads, but, instead of cheering the scene, rather add to its sombre aspect.

To change the gloomy tone which pervades the greater part of Greece would be a work of time, under the most enlightened administration; but, whilst it remains subject to its present legislators, there is but little hope of any amelioration.

The desire of aping the great powers has induced a misapplication of her funds. Instead of contenting herself with having commercial agents, resident in the different nations, with whom she carries on any trading communication, she must needs have ambassadors, in addition to the consuls, who are now established at the various ports, with which she carries on any commerce, and who were certainly necessary to her interests. Although they had but a handful of men, which composed their army, yet there were seven or eight generals; and many other instances of unnecessary expense, whilst useful works, which were of vital importance to the welfare of the country,

were totally neglected; such as making of roads, and establishing a greater facility of communication from one part of the kingdom to the other; the total deficiency of which has deterred foreigners in general from visiting Greece with their families.

Were the conveniences of travelling in some degree improved, numbers of the English nobility and gentry, who have been for years accustomed to pass their winters in Italy, would infinitely prefer the greater novelty of sojourning in the still more classic territory of Greece. But the counsellors of Otho have ill studied the genius of the people over whom they preside, or their interests: they needed not Bavarian state, and etiquette; rude and simple in their manners, the hardy mountaineers scoffed at the petty pride and ceremonies incidental to a court, united as they were with German stiffness. They wanted, in a king, a mere centre to a social compact, and as much simplicity as could be consistent with maintaining the dignity of royalty, was absolutely necessary to preserve the affections of a race, whose habits were primitive, and had taught them

to despise all the forms attendant on luxurious refinement.

One impolitic measure much displeased the Greeks, immediately after the arrival of their new masters: they undertook to reform the troops, and introduced the Bavarian uniform, compelling the natives to throw aside their picturesque costume, which they had ever been accustomed to wear, and to hear extolled by all foreigners that visited their country. Some of the most enlightened had even pleased and gratified them, by casting off their European dress, and adopting the Palikar (being that of the Greek military), amongst whom were Lord Byron, General Church, &c. I am, nevertheless, bound to exonerate Count d'Armansperg, from participating in this absurd innovation; he having assured me that it was adopted against his judgment, and that it was his intention, at any rate, to form a regiment of Greeks, in their ancient costume.

It is amusing to observe the metamorphose that is effected in clothing men in our apparel, who have been accustomed to the full flow of Eastern drapery; they having only habituated themselves

to tightening the waist, whilst they have left full play for the limbs, can ill support the confinement of our trousers, which has a manifest influence on their gait. Instead of that bold dignified step, which characterised even the Greek peasant, when buttoned up in our nether garments, their walk descends into a little sneaking shuffle; and, as a proof of how they were degraded in personal appearance by the change, in the eyes of their country people, a good-looking young man, whom I had understood had been always particularly successful in his affairs with the fair sex, assured me one day when I was rallying him on the subject, that since he had assumed the European costume, that the ladies would not look at him, telling him that before he had a chivalric air, but that now he looked all that was insignificant.

That the Greeks are naturally a very difficult people to govern, I readily admit; and the instinctive restlessness of their character was increased by the marauding life they had led since the commencement of the revolution, which had entirely weaned them from habits of industry. Turned from their homes, they had long been accustomed to rove about the country, having

no other means of subsistence than plunder; and when they found no Turkish property that they could pillage, in a legitimate way, according to the rights of war, they made free with whatever force would enable them to seize with impunity; and this predatory sort of proceeding agreed with the genius of their character. Yet might this evil have been in a great degree corrected, when a regular government became established, had each man been allotted a plot of ground, which would have been a homestead, and proved a great incentive to industry; for though there were plenty of lands to whom no one could lay any claim, and that a man might have cultivated for years unmolested, yet there is not that inducement for toil, where a doubt is felt, as there is, when a spot, however small, can be legally confirmed to you as your own. The Greeks are naturally an idle people: it appeared to me that the women worked harder than the men.

I was once highly amused by witnessing a quarrel between an Italian and a Greek; the latter, at last, became exceedingly irritated, and called the former a liar, who coolly replied, "But you are a Greek," whose ire increasing, told the Italian he

was a thief, who, in return, again said, "But you are a Greek," who then becoming still more incensed, roared out, "You are a murderer!" "But you are a Greek," returned the assailed; and although he was abused by every epithet that language could muster, all the Italian ever replied to the reviler was, "that he was a Greek," till at last the latter observed, "I know very well I am Greek, therefore, what do you mean by that?" "I mean," said the Italian, "being Greek unites all the bad qualities you have ascribed to me, and, if it were possible, ten thousand times worse."

This anecdote will give some idea of the opprobrium which is attached to the Greeks in some countries. There were several foreign spectators who witnessed the above scene, and who were much entertained with the violent rage of the Greek, and the imperturbable coolness of the Italian.

Although some have laid great stress on the judicious selection of the regents,—D'Armansperg being a statesman, Maurer, a sound lawyer, and Heydig, an experienced general,—yet it is evident that the interests of Greece would have been better served by a man who well understood a

good system of colonisation, and also one who had a sound knowledge of political economy. The Allies, undoubtedly, set the first example of unnecessary extravagance, in appointing four regents, whilst they followed it up by nominating diplomatists, and other superfluous officers, without properly calculating the very limited resources of the country, which, in extent, is not so large as Ireland, while the population is only eight hundred thousand, being a little less than half that of London.

The year I was in Greece, the revenue amounted to but thirteen million drachms, of which the accounts of the minister at war absorbed eleven; I therefore leave the reader to judge what means they had left to pay their king, regents, ambassadors, generals, troops, &c. Of course, hitherto, the loans have supplied the deficiency, and, by their assistance, affairs may go on for some years; but, if a day of reckoning must at last arrive, Greece would be placed in an embarrassing predicament. Even if it were confined to the interest, the capital must inevitably remain their permanent national debt.

Of products for exports they have but few in-

number, and those small in quantity. The most marketable, and perhaps one of their most important and profitable articles, is currants, for which they have ever been celebrated, the French calling them *raisin de Corinthe*, though at present the isle of Zante is still more famed for its production of that fruit. In wool they have done something, and, I should think, are likely to do more; as also in cotton, vallonea, spunges, madder, oil, &c. Their silk is not so highly estimated as that of Turkey; and in olives, figs, oranges, and lemons, they do little. But, as the country becomes more settled and inhabited, there is no doubt but that (as all the above productions are capable of increase and improvement) more attention will be devoted to these objects.

CHAPTER VII.

A BALL AT NAPOLI DI ROMANIA—THE CHARACTERS THERE ASSEMBLED—IMMENSE HEAT AND CROWD—GREEK ECONOMY—CURIOUS LOOKING SET OF PERSONS—AN IRISHMAN'S MISTAKE—PRINCE SAXE ALTEMBERG—THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTERS—ELABORATE EDUCATION—SONATA ON THE PIANOFORTE—A GREEK BEAUTY—THE MODERN HELEN—A SLIT EAR—A CHIEF IN HIS LAIR—HIS ATTENDANTS—HIS MISTAKE AND OSTENTATION—DIPLOMATIST'S RECEPTIONS—UNJUST ASSERTIONS IN NEWSPAPERS—THEIR MISREPRESENTATIONS—AN EDITOR FEASTED EVERY WHERE—HIS GRATITUDE AND REVENGE—A FORMIDABLE CAPTAIN—HIS OVERFLOWING CANDOUR—CONSCIOUS WEAKNESS OF THE BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT—ATTACK ON A LADY'S REPUTATION.

I QUITTED Athens at three o'clock in the afternoon, and embarked from Piræus at five. We had, as sailors, two men and a boy; one of the former was drunk; but the night was bright, and the wind was fair, and I passed the time in a manner which is often the most agreeable at sea, viz., in sound sleep, and did not awaken till we arrived at Epidaurus. The distance is rather more than forty miles.

We disembarked soon after midnight; but my reminiscences were too powerfully fraught with the gambols of my old companions, the rats, to feel any inclination to stop a night with them. I therefore took measures to procure horses immediately, in which, after much bargaining, I succeeded, and determined to proceed on my journey instânter, the moon then giving ample light. About five in the morning it deserted us, and left us in total darkness, in a part of the road so rugged and precipitous, that it was with difficulty we could keep our horses on their legs, whilst scrambling over the stones in the rocky descents, through which we had to thread our way. At last our guides lost their track; and when daylight appeared we found we had strayed far from our path. But as it afforded me the view of a most picturesque scene, with a convent very romantically situated, I was gratified at the mischance; and, in spite of all impediments, we arrived at Napoli before three, and I resumed my old quarters at Bruno's hotel.''

At a ball given by the authorities of this town to the king, I had an opportunity of seeing all the choice spirits of the place; and certainly I never

witnessed a more extraordinary assemblage of persons. A caprice had entered the heads of the regents, that whoever was in a government office, even to the lowest clerk, must wear the uniform they had established; and this was an opportunity for display: many an awkward ape was buttoned up in light sky blue; the regents, ambassadors, their attachés, the consuls, &c., were all likewise in full dress, and the *coup d'œil* might have had a fine effect. But the managers of the fête had sent out so many tickets, that no one could see above six inches farther than his nose, as we were literally packed together like herrings in a barrel, and one's olfactory nerves were unequivocally convinced that the Greeks were very partial to garlick and onions, which perfumed the room to such a horrid degree, united with the heat, that I really thought we should share the same fate as most of the poor wretches who were stuffed into the Black Hole of Calcutta. And though I had determined to escape as soon as possible, I saw no hopes of effecting my purpose, till, espying Mavrocordato (at that time minister of foreign affairs) approaching, by dint of physical strength, I soon perceived that his intention was the same as my

own; and was confirmed in my surmise, when asking him how he endured stewing in a vapour bath, he vowed he could not, and would not bear it a minute longer; and setting to work with his lungs, aided by the most powerful efforts of his lusty arms and legs, he ploughed his way through the human lumber which impeded his progress; and I, constituting myself one of his suite, stuck so close to him that I got out by the same furrow which he, by means of bodily force, had opened.

On reaching a sort of vestibule, I gladly availed myself of a vacant seat; and there, from a half-opened door, which afforded me a view into a sort of ante-room, which, like a peep behind the scenes, let me a little into the by-play, I unintentionally became a witness to a practical lesson on Greek economy, and was thereby furnished with an idea of management to me entirely new. Glasses of orgeat and lemonade had been served to the company, and, as one seldom drains the contents to the lowest level, a certain portion was left in each tumbler, which I observed the servants (no doubt from superior orders they had received) carefully collecting together for replenishing the glasses. These were again sent in to the thirsty souls who

still composed the gay and crowded throng; therefore, in some instances, one might have had the supreme felicity of drinking after a dozen mouths, till at last, I am certain, even the glasses must have been impregnated with the scent of garlick.

But had it been nectar handed by the gods, it could not have received a warmer welcome from those for whom it was destined. In fact, the scramble around the waiters, when they entered with refreshments, as seen from the outside, resembled a combat; it was an amusing study to stand where one had breathing room, and contemplate the motley group.

Hitherto, at the court, I had seen a selected assemblage of persons; but in this instance it descended to classes who could not procure the *entrée* to the Countess's *soirées*. I certainly am of opinion that they owe it to philanthropy, to have it written on the gates of the town, "Refuge for the awkward and the ugly;" for however a person might possess those qualities to an extreme degree, he might, at a public ball at Napoli, still find his peer; for it really was remarkable, that amongst the number of foreigners that were congregated together in Greece, how very ordinary

were the samples of the different nations, as far as regarded personal appearance. Nor was my own country wholly exempt from this remark, particularly as regarded the females, who, with one exception, were any thing but such specimens as I could be proud of.

One curiosity there was amongst the gifts which Bavaria presented to Greece, who afforded considerable amusement. This was a gentleman whose features were not bad, if perchance they were ever quiet, but unfortunately they were perpetually at work. The consequence was, he was eternally grimacing so ludicrously, that it was difficult to look at him without an inclination to laugh. It was not always, however, that his unlucky habit excited *only* good humour; for an Irish gentleman who had newly arrived, of a choleric temperament (he, like many others, was panting to enter the service of the young King Otho), prior to his admission to the audience chamber, was shewn into an ante-room, where many other persons were waiting for the same purpose as himself. At first he preserved his patience tolerably well; but when he saw several ushered forth into the regent's presence, and himself remain unnoticed, he began

to wax wroth; and not speaking any language but his own, he was rather annoyed at the foreign gabble that was clacking around him; and now and then a laugh occurring, he began to have sundry suspicions that it might be at him. At length, rising from his seat, he commenced pacing the room, looking very big, and in one of his turns he suddenly came opposite the gentleman so famed for distorting his countenance, whose features were as usual fatiguing themselves with their accustomed evolutions. Already prepossessed with the idea that every one was disposed to affront him, he now imagined he had received the confirmation; and fiercely strutting up to the unfortunate gentleman, whilst bursting with anger, he loudly exclaimed, "What do you mane by making mouths at me, Sir?" The Bavarian, thus assailed, denied the charge, being himself totally unconscious of the various twists of his physiognomy, and, understanding a little English, coolly replied that he had not made any faces, when the Hibernian reiterated, in a still higher tone, "But I say you did, Sir, and devilish ugly faces they were too." This insult was not to be borne; and the grimacing gentleman becoming indignant in

his turn, demanded his accuser's card, at the same time delivering his own; but the circumstances being explained to the Irishman, in his cooler moments, he was induced to admit that he had acted under an erroneous impression, and to express his regret at having uttered any offensive expressions.

As I have so much dilated on the uncouth samples imported into Greece from Bavaria, it is now high time that I should mention the exceptions; and foremost I will introduce to my readers the Prince Saxe Altemberg, brother of the Queen of Bavaria, than whom I never saw a finer young man: always gentlemanly, kind, and affable in his manners. Amongst other accomplishments, he possesses that of being an excellent musician; and with his characteristic good humour, whenever he saw me approach the piano, whilst he was playing, he always struck up an English air,—as "God save the King," "Rule Britannia," or his favourite, "Cherry Ripe." His aid-de-camp was as fine a man as himself; and certainly, in external appearance, they were unrivalled at the court of Greece, and would have been conspicuous at any other.

Maurer, the ex-regent, was a very handsome

man, possessing a most pleasing address, and an air of frankness which was extremely engaging to strangers; it might be affected, but it passed current at any rate, until he was well known. Arbel, the ex-supernumerary regent, was also a good looking man; but had not the same polished manners. After these, I do not remember any others amongst the Bavarians who were remarkably eminent, either for their persons or their talents. But, of the fair sex, the daughters of Count D'Armansperg must not be omitted, though their system of education appeared to me somewhat singular.

Calling one morning on their mother, I was conducted through a room, where I found the three young ladies, each with a musket, going through their military exercise, to the word of command, given by a serjeant. The eldest daughter appeared not to like having been thus surprised; but the second came up to me and presented arms in due form. What could be the motive for giving them this accomplishment I know not. They were also excellent shots. In fact, to have had a challenge from the second daughter would have been no joke, as her aim was infallible. Immense pains were taken

with these young ladies' education: all their day was spent in attention to a succession of masters, who were instructing them in English, French, Greek, and Italian; music, drawing, dancing, riding, and military exercises; besides which the eldest learned Latin. But I cannot help thinking the same error was committed with them as that which too often occurs in this country, when parents, wishing their children to become paragons of perfection, crowd their brains with such a variety of acquirements, that it would be beyond human capability to obtain other than a superficial knowledge of so many accomplishments; hence arise such a multitude of characters who appear to have been formed alone for display: they learn to copy a few drawings, which, with much retouching of the master, pass off tolerably well; but require them to sketch even a cottage from nature, and they have not the least idea how to set about it.

In England all young ladies learn French, and, according to their mamma's decision, can translate it marvellously well; and then, when they arrive in France, to the great wonderment of the parents, Miss cannot understand what is said, nor make herself understood. The same may be said of

Italian, and now, forsooth, the poor things must be bothered with German, as if they had not sufficient torments before. And in no respect is this mere surface of education more conspicuous than music. How many are there who learn a few pieces, to play in company, passably perfect, such being selected as require some execution, and are more calculated to astonish than enchant. "Now, has she not improved?" is the exclamation of the delighted papa and mamma, whilst one declares it is wonderful, another that it is surprising, and, without a division of opinion, the young creature is voted a prodigy; yet set her down to play any trifling air at sight, she is immediately at fault.

I had a practical specimen of this at a family's with whom I dined in Greece. After dinner, I asked the elder young lady to favour me by playing any favourite piece that she preferred: accordingly, she fixed upon a military sonata, with variations, by Herz, which she executed very correctly, and with some brilliancy. The Princess Cantacuzeno came in to tea; they asked for music: again the fair performer played the military sonata by Herz. At nine the King arrived; and he, a true lover of harmony, wished to be gratified with

the young lady's performance: once more, she resumed her seat at the pianoforte, and a third time I had the pleasure of hearing Herz's military sonata. It was therefore quite evident, that this was her show-piece; and on my requesting her to try a waltz of Beethoven's, she declared that she should be very happy, but that she had never practised it. Indeed she was so overcharged with accomplishments, that she was sinking under their weight; and I suspect her knowledge of each was about as profound as that which she had just displayed in music. For though Germany was her native country, and where she had always been brought up, she had never heard of the names of either Kotzebue, Zimmerman, Kant, &c., but had been so bored with acquiring the languages of other nations, that she had never found time to attend to the literature of her own; yet, with all the errors in her education, she was the most elegant and most admired girl in Napoli.

Amongst the ladies forming the society in Greece, there were many from Constantinople, who certainly had rather a more refined air than those of the Morea. Of the latter I only remember

one, decidedly pretty; and her I have only seen at a window, as the gentleman to whom she was affianced was absent; therefore, according to the customs of the country, she could not appear in society. When I first arrived at Napoli, a lady was there, whose reputed beauty created quite a sensation; and, as on the Sundays she promenaded on the public walk, I, as well as many others, went to see her. She was leaning on the arm of her husband, who was dressed in a very picturesque costume, truly Greek. The lady wore the dress of her island, being a native of Hydra: though far from becoming, I admired her taste, in still wearing the habit of her ancestors, instead of adopting the Parisian fashions, with which most European ladies spoil themselves, if they have not Parisian grace to sustain it. I like to see national character marked by national costume. A view of the lady in question at once convinced me how rare must beauty be in Greece. She certainly was a fresh-coloured, good-looking woman, with fine dark eyes; but either in England or France would not have been estimated any higher. Her head-dress was very graceless, consisting of a sort of handkerchief, which so bundled up the

face as to cover the greater part of her cheeks, which, being rather fat, might perhaps derive some advantage by being in a degree concealed. She was in mourning; and one peculiarity in her costume was, that of the petticoat showing about nine or ten inches below the gown, which is not only a Hydriote fashion, but I observed it to prevail in several of the islands; and, except when a person is dressed in black, the under garment is of a different colour from the upper, and very often red or green. The lady so celebrated for a beauty was a daughter, or niece, I forget which, of Conduriotti, who is supposed to be one of the richest men in Greece. There was also a lady who was called the modern Helen, who had the appearance of having been handsome, but though only twenty, was, what the French call *passée*, on account of the trouble and illness which she had endured. She had been considered so great a prize, that war had taken place on her account. Fields were devastated, villages burnt, and battles were fought between the contending parties, who contested the claims of the different candidates for the fair hand of the admired object. She was styled the Modern Helen, not only on account of

her beauty, but for the strife she occasioned, and which at one time threatened to involve all Greece. At length, she was awarded to her present husband, who had nothing to do with the contests that had taken place concerning her, was comparatively a stranger too, and came from afar off, being a native of Candia, whilst she was of Corinth.

But the reader must not suppose that her personal or intellectual charms were the only inducements which attracted the lady so many admirers, the greatest fascination consisting in extensive and valuable currant plantations, which formed part of her dowry. Her husband was one of the most active men that ever figured in the revolution; and even after the Turks had been entirely driven out of the country, his restless spirit excited him to rebel against all the various forms of government that were attempted in Greece, with the exception of that of Capo d'Istrias; and as he has ever been known to be in the Russian interest, he adhered to the cause of that unfortunate, though talented statesman. He is small in person, though big in courage; was ever to be found where the battle was rife, and famous for his

prowess in combats which brought the opponents hand to hand.

He was often taken prisoner by the Turks; and the last time, at the battle of Athens, was ordered by Omer Vrione to the executioner, being recognized as so persevering an enemy to the Ottoman dominion; but, as it was remarked that his relations and friends were very rich, and would no doubt pay a heavy ransom, the humane commander gave directions that his life should be spared, but that his ear be slit, that he might be known as an old offender, if again he should fall into the hands of the Mahometan chiefs; and this little souvenir of Turkish kindness he still retains, and will with his life. Having been at Paris, he has endeavoured to introduce European customs, regarding the arrangement of his ménage, furnishing his house, &c.; but, like all the Greeks, when they attempt to engraft luxury on their semi-barbarity, he displayed an instance of ridiculous inconsistency. Purchasing a magnificent glass chandelier, he hung it up with a bit of tarred rope. "I slept once or twice at his house, and was put into a room which, in its different articles of furniture, united all that was elegant, but one vessel there was, which I am

convinced had never been cleaned since it was created, and emitted so detestable a scent, that it prevented my sleeping, and I was finally obliged to put it out of the window.

There is a mock dignity about the Greeks that has often afforded me much amusement. I remember one morning, while paying a visit to Madame Papadopolo, a Greek came in and said that a chief named Carli Christo was most anxious to have his portrait taken, and how delighted he would be, if I would call upon him to talk over the subject.

Madame Papadopolo thought it would be too great a condescension for me to call upon him, and therefore suggested that he should call upon me: but this did not enter into my views; having heard much of this wild mountain chief, I preferred seeking the lion in his lair. Accordingly, having had his house pointed out to me, I sought the entrance, but, after a long research, the only door which I could find opened into a stable, wherein several horses were installed, and the passage so narrow, that I could scarcely pass without inconvenience; particularly as one of the steeds was amusing himself with kicking against the wall, pre-

cisely where I had to pass. I therefore was obliged to make a very nice calculation, so as to get by exactly during the intervals between the kicks; but I ascertained that this was the only entrance by which both bipeds and quadrupeds had ingress and egress to this extraordinary mansion.

At length I arrived at the foot of a flight of steps, something between a ladder and a staircase, but so miserably broken, that no common degree of caution was requisite to mount it in safety: at last I reached the den, where Carli Christo was reclining on a sofa. The room was low and dark; a parcel of sombre-looking figures were around him, some friends, others dependents. I was immediately assigned the seat of honour, a great ragged old arm-chair, into which I know not whether I flumped rather too suddenly, but certain it is that down it came, and I with it, which appeared greatly to shock the assembly, who, in a drawling hollow tone and solemn manner, ejaculated, "Aw! aw!" as they ran forward to assist me, and making such dismal faces, that I found it impossible to resist laughing. By means of props, the chair of state was once more placed erect, and I again reinstated on the tottering throne, when pipe,

sweetmeats, coffee, and water were presented to me, according to the custom of the country. I then much excited their admiration by showing them the pictures of their countrymen, which inspired Carli Christo with a great desire to have his own; and through the medium of an interpreter, alluding to the portraits which I had shown them, wanted to know what they cost.

When I informed them, the chief immediately decided that he would have his own; but I soon found that a misunderstanding had taken place, I having named the price of a single portrait, whilst they had understood it as collectively, and were making their calculation of the number (might be two or three and twenty) that I had shown them at the sum I stated, and deducing from thence what would be the proportion for one. I began to suspect the kind of arithmetic that was going on, by observing how busily they were counting their fingers; but when an *éclaircissement* took place, and they found the cost would be above twenty times more than they had imagined, an exclamation of "Aw!" was universally echoed all round.

But Carli Christo got out of the scrape most magnificently: springing on his legs, he showed

me the whole extent of his person, which certainly was beyond the usual proportions, and directed the interpreter to tell me that he would pay me a visit some day, and have a picture as long as that, stretching his arms to their utmost length, whereby the tips of his right hand almost touched the ceiling, whilst those of his left nearly reached the floor; flattering himself that he displayed a degree of grandeur that must raise him in my estimation, in conceiving the idea of having a picture of such dimensions; not that he ever for a moment dreamed of having anything of the kind, but he wished to terminate the affair in an apparently pompous style. The ménage of Carli Christo was truly Greek, dirty, miserable, and comfortless, yet having an air of ostentation withal; his establishment appearing to contain an interpreter, a pipe-bearer, other servants, hangers-on, and several horses.

On the whole, Napoli offered more advantages, in regard to society, than might have been expected. In addition to the receptions at the Presidency, on the Saturdays and Wednesdays, Prince Mavrocordato, as minister of foreign affairs, and Coletti, as minister of the interior, each

had an evening in the week for receiving, as well as the respective ambassadors, with the exception of the English, who, no doubt, from a love of retired habits, or some other reason, had not any fixed evenings for opening his doors to his friends and acquaintances. Still, it must be admitted that he did not carry this anti-social feeling so far as not to frequent the *soirées* given by others at which he mostly attended, and by his wit and vivacity enlivened whatever circle he entered. Yet the world had a curious manner of describing this affair: they would say the French ambassador receives on Sunday, the Russian on Monday, the Bavarian on Tuesday, and so they would run through the days of the week, and then terminate by stating that the English ambassador receives on the 29th of February, except leap years, when it is put off till the 30th!

Be this as it may, personally speaking, I feel bound to observe that I always met with kindness and hospitality from that gentleman, as also from those who were at the head of the embassies from Russia, France and Prussia; and I feel it almost a duty incumbent upon me to refute a calumny which appeared in one of the English

newspapers, against the Russian ambassador, M. Caticazy, than whom a more amiable man I never met. The paragraph to which I allude stated that M. Caticazy was despised for his cowardice, on account of his conduct at the battle of Navarino, pretending, that just prior to the fleets engaging, he sent to Admiral Heyden, desiring a vessel to carry him to a place of safety, not daring to expose himself to the perils of the combat. Now mark the real fact:—a sloop was placed under his orders to convey him to wherever he thought proper, and he was earnestly pressed to retire, on account of his diplomatic character, but he positively refused to quit the ship he was in, and remained a witness of the engagement, of which he gave me himself a most accurately detailed account.

I met with the writer of this article, and asked him what was his motive for this severe and unjust philippic on the Russian ambassador: he replied, that he had written according to the information he had received, at the same time admitting that he might have been misinformed; but concluded by declaring that he considered it an affair of the utmost indifference, as to what

appeared in a newspaper, either for or against an individual. My own experience has convinced me to the contrary; and however people may have a habit of declaring, "You must never mind what they say in newspapers," yet I am confident that they have an important influence over the public mind, particularly when they allude to a foreign country. In England, the majority form their opinions of the French, and their politics, in a great measure from the extracts that are given from the French papers: in France they return the compliment, and have the highest idea of our press, as giving a faithful picture of the feelings of the people, and the general state of the country; though, could they be aware of the manner in which many of the articles are procured, the bias of party feeling, to the complete annihilation of truth, and how often they are rendered a vehicle for revenge, from some private pique, their faith in newspaper information would be materially shaken.

I met in the East with several correspondents of the London papers, gentlemen receiving high salaries, and generally passably well informed men; but I was much surprised at the light manner in

which they gathered their intelligence, the little trouble they were at to ascertain whether it was correct or otherwise. In one instance, where I convinced one of them who read me the article he was about to send to England, that part of what he asserted was the direct opposite to the fact, he replied, "Oh, never mind, it will suit my purpose just as well; so it shall go as it is, and will be more amusing than if I were to send them the real truth."

One of these gentry went to Egypt, and received an introduction to a certain consul at Alexandria, a complete creature of Mehemet Ali; and as the literary gentleman met with much hospitality from the said Consul, whilst he ate his dinners and drunk his wine, he listened to his tales, representing the pacha all that was immaculate, and his dominions with regard to population, finance, army, navy, agriculture, and other resources, most prosperous and flourishing. The hired scribe then framed his article for his London employer accordingly; in short, as much the opposite of the real fact, as Mehemet Ali himself could desire, as a description of himself, and his government, to figure away in the English papers;

and a most brilliant gem of statistical information was drawn up, in very pretty language, and most highly edifying for those who might never have an opportunity of knowing better.

However behind us in civilization, they may be in the East, with respect to the manœuvres and trickery incidental to the manufacture of newspapers, they already rival us. Whilst I was at Napoli, the editor of a journal published in Turkey arrived, and was overwhelmed with attentions from all the authorities, and persons concerned in the government. It was well known that he had entered into some arrangements, for which he was to receive a certain consideration, and in turn, it was understood that he was to extol the Bavarian government in Greece to the utmost of his powers of elocution; this compact was entered into, with the anti-d'Armansperg faction.

Afterwards I met with this same editor in Turkey, and I remarked how much Greece was indebted to his paper, for his flattering commendations regarding the improved state of its affairs, and the political conduct of its rulers. I thought his reply was rather ambiguous, and some weeks

afterwards he complained to me that D'Armansperg owed him a certain sum of money, for which he had written, and had only received an evasive answer. About a month after this, he stated the amount owing as double what he had before said, and a third time he mentioned a still higher sum, and that he could obtain no answer whatever from D'Armansperg to his letters; adding, that he would give him one fortnight longer, and if he did not reply in a satisfactory manner, by that time, he would write as much against the Bavarian government as he before had praised it; declaring that he was sure it was in his power to ruin Otho, and his whole gang, and get them driven back to where they came from; and he certainly did hurl his anathemas at them at a most tremendous rate. D'Armansperg deigned not to notice his thundering declamations, which had little influence on Greek affairs; the editor remained unpaid, and unrevenged. I suspect his contract had never been ratified by the President, but merely made with his enemies, who had pledged themselves to take so many papers weekly, to a certain amount, on condition that their measures were upheld therein. This explains

the increase of the sum with the increase of time, adverted to by the editor, in complaining of D'Armansperg's conduct, who certainly could not be blamed for not adhering to an engagement made with his opponents.

Several papers made their appearance whilst I was in Greece, without their containing any thing worthy of remark, otherwise than a powerful emulation as to which could tell the greatest lie; nor were the editors men at all celebrated for literary talent, or for any thing else, except one, who had travelled, and had attained some degree of notoriety, from a report prevailing, of his having stolen a gold snuff-box once at Paris. A thundering captain there was, who accused him of it in society; but although the rest of the company were horrified, the editor himself received it with Christian forbearance, and being of a mild and gentle disposition, had too much philosophy to attempt to resent it. This said captain was so strange a character, that I cannot pass him by unnoticed. He was in height about six feet three or four, and the most audacious man in speaking his mind that I ever encountered: one would imagine that there was some spring

within him, which compelled him to say exactly what he thought. He had been one of the hardest labourers in the Greek cause of any, had marched for months without shoes or stockings, and without knowing the comfort of a bed, or having a roof to cover him, had shared the peril of most of the battles which had been fought with the Turks, and, in fact, under all circumstances, proved himself a hardy soldier, and an excellent officer.

Having in vain personally solicited the Bavarians for a confirmation of the rank he had held prior to their arrival, at last, out of all patience at their delays and evasions, he brought me a letter, which he addressed to them, full of the bitterest abuse; not giving them more than they deserved, but infinitely more than prudence would dictate. He was on the point of sending it to the seat of government, when I advised him to reflect some time before he had recourse to so rash a measure, reminding him, at the same time, that there were such places as the Palymede, the Ichkali, and the Bourgi,—the three principal prisons at Napoli,—in one or other of which he might stand a chance of finding lodgings gratis. After reflecting a few days, he wrote another,

couched in rather more moderate terms, yet containing one expression which would have caused it to have been indignantly rejected by any government which possessed a full confidence in its own strength; viz., observing that he was conscious of one disadvantage under which he laboured, that of being an "old Philhellenist," which he was well aware was a crime in their eyes.

Nothing could be more insulting than this remark. The expression of an "old Philhellenist" can only be understood in its fullest sense in Greece; meaning any one who assisted either personally or in a pecuniary manner, or both, in the arduous struggle which the Greeks had in effecting their emancipation; whilst the great charge made against the Bavarians was, that they felt a jealousy against these true and tried friends of Greece, endeavouring to cast them off, in favour of their own countrymen; and though the government indignantly repelled the accusation, yet the captain's letter was received with complacency: notwithstanding the offensive reflection it cast upon their justice, he obtained partly what he solicited, whilst no remonstrance was made against his letter; by which tacit acquiescence, the regents

certainly displayed a total want of dignity, in admitting thus tamely so severe a censure on their conduct; but D'Armansperg was not then in power.

There was another instance of this captain's unparalleled audacity. An excursion of pleasure was formed, consisting of rather a large party, and one of the ladies had the misfortune to do or say something which offended this high-mettled captain; in fact, his ire had been for some months longing to burst forth against her, and at last he gave it full vent,—whilst all the company were seated at a repast, loudly accusing the lady of infidelity to her husband, in favour of a gentleman who then sat next her. He then entered into a retrospect of her former conduct, and charged her with many other derelictions at various other places. The husband all the time sat mute, with a sort of air as if he wished it to be supposed that he did not hear, and the gallant was equally dumb; but some excuse perhaps may be made for *him*, as he was suffering from a tremendous scar received in a recent duel, which spoiled his forehead, interfered with his nose, and just noticed his cheek *en passant*. In short, not one of the persons present spoke a

word; and the captain was suffered to run out his yarn quite unmolested.

I feel certain that he was mistaken regarding the lady whose character he thus unceremoniously vilified. She was incautious in her conduct, and careless of the opinion of others,—erroneously imagining that the *consciousness* of her innocence was a shield which ought to render her indifferent to the judgment of the world; and though this daring fair one was certainly much to blame, yet was she far more blameless than some who shunned her, and were ever courting appearances, at the same time that they were really guilty, but ever blinding the public by very minute attention to all the littlenesses of punctilio, and the strictest observance of all the rules of external propriety.

CHAPTER VIII.

GREEK WEDDING—TREATMENT OF SERVANTS—A STRING OF BEADS RECOMMENDED—SUPERSTITION—STREET SCENES—COUP DE SOLEIL—HARDSHIPS ENDURED BY PHILHELLENISTS—UNFORTUNATE ENTHUSIAST—HIS AMIABLE QUALITIES—GALLANT CONDUCT—HIS DEATH—GREEK SERVANTS—FRENCH TROOPS ATTACKED BY THE GREEKS—REPULSED AND PUNISHED—AUDACIOUS THEFT—THE ROBBER KILLED—GREEK PEASANTS' IDEAS ON THIEVING—THEIR LOVE OF PLUNDER, AND CRUELTY—A GREEK AT HIS TOILET—RELUCTANCE TO PAY THEIR DEBTS—MODE OF DOING SO—GREEK FRIENDSHIP—THEIR APTNESS IN CHEATING—GENERALS CHURCH AND PISA—THEIR RELATIVE POSITIONS.

ONE custom is observed amongst the Greeks, which struck me as very remarkable. When a couple is going to be married, they walk about the streets of the town almost the whole day; he, with his male companions, looking very jovial and delighted; she, supported by her female friends, is expected to appear very sad: weeping and almost fainting, leaning on those who sustain her, she is thus slowly borne along. Music precedes them, and the rear is brought up by camels, horses, or

asses, carrying the greater part of their goods and chattels, such as all their linen, blankets, bedding, kitchen utensils, plate, glass, knives and forks, dishes, &c.: I have sometimes seen tables and chairs. All these are paraded about with the lovers at least one day, and sometimes it is continued two or three days.

Their system with regard to servants is most singular: they will take a girl very young, give her no wages, but some old clothes and her board; but they tell her, when the opportunity arrives, they will marry her; that is to say, they will give her a little portion, when the time shall come that any one takes a fancy to her, and that she approves. But if this circumstance should never occur, and that the female should pass the marriageable age, which very soon takes place in Greece, then the family with whom she lives consoles her by telling her, that, as they could not marry her, they will bury her; and the contented servant remains in her place, always solacing herself with the idea that she is sure of being decently buried! It often happens, however, when she has entered very young into service, that she outlives her master and mistress; it then devolves

on their children, relations, or successors, to fulfil the contract, by performing the last rites over the faithful domestic. Changing of servants is not frequent in Greece, on account of the above practice; but when it does happen that a master may wish to diminish his establishment, and sends a servant away for that or any other reason, he is still generally permitted to come and dine, &c., at his old place until he can find another. Nay, it is rarely noticed if brothers, sisters, or any of the servant's family frequent the house, and partake of the kitchen fare for several days in the week; in fact, any one having a regular *ménage* in Greece, however he may abstain from inviting guests above stairs, would find it difficult to get rid of them below, without flying in the face of the customs of the country, which is generally impolitic.

The Greeks have a great fellow-feeling for relations, and open their houses to them, and give them board as a sort of duty, or rather a habit. Thus I have generally found, that where there is any thing of an establishment sustained, there are mostly one or two hangers-on, the relative position of whom one cannot at first understand, or know whether to treat them as of the family or as do-

mestics. Sometimes they do sit at the table with the heads of the house, and at others they do not; but, on inquiry, I always found they were poor relations; and I really believe there is not a respectable house in Greece without them. This I have understood is the remains of a very ancient custom, which has always prevailed throughout the East, and is one of the expected rites of hospitality.

Provisions, as far as regards meat, bread, and wine, are very cheap; as also is rice, which forms a constant ingredient of some of the dishes that deck a Greek table. They seldom dine without a pilav, which is composod of rice and some kind of meat or poultry.

One custom which exists in Greece I should like much to see introduced in our own and other countries: the gentlemen carry a string of brown beads, which I thought related to religious ceremonies, but found it was merely an article of amusement, to have something constantly in the hand to twist about. This is a very good thing; and it would be a capital plan if all the fidgets I know would adopt it, instead of picking to pieces and spoiling every thing they can get hold of.

How often does it happen with friends and acquaintances that come to see me, that they catch up my pens and split them up, or my pencils, and break their points, or my painting brushes, till they slit the quills; and sometimes contrive to get my penknife, or a pair of scissors, and cut away at every thing they come near, regardless of blunting some choice blades that I only reserve for select purposes. How frequently I have seen different articles in their destructive paws, which I knew they were ruining, yet could not make up my mind to spoil their amusement by telling them of it. But I do now hope and trust, that, if these pages fall into the hands of these fidgetty and mischievous friends of mine, that those whom the cap may fit will have the goodness to provide themselves with a string of the said beads, whereby they will have something to twirl and twiddle about, and there will be some chance that they will let my things alone.

One extraordinary instance of superstition exists in Greece, which perhaps will be better explained by citing a circumstance which occurred to myself. Praising and caressing a little girl, of whom I was very fond, the mother begged of me not to

display so much affection for the child, or the nurse would spit upon me; they having an idea that, if you take too great a fancy to any thing, animate or inanimate, that it will become charmed and wither, and that the only means by which the charm can be dissolved is by spitting on the person who has cast on it the evil eye, as they term it. I was joking once with a Greek lady on this subject, who persisted that it was no idle superstition, but absolutely a fact. She stated that many cases had come under her own observation, and one particularly, which she related, of a child who had died, but whose hair had been so remarkably long and beautiful, that the parents had cut it off and hung it up in the room they generally frequented; but a female came in, who kept praising and looking at the hair, until it became fraught with the evil eye, no one taking the precaution of spitting upon the woman: the unfortunate hair, therefore, all shrivelled up, and when touched crumbled to dust.

To dare to doubt a lady on a subject which had been confirmed to her by the evidence of her own eyesight would have been the height of presumption; I therefore remained silent, which she took

for assent, and congratulated herself on the powers of her elocution, in having thus convinced me.

I have generally found the Greeks very good natured in directing me when I was at fault, and even guessing where I was going. This happened to me at Athens. I was plodding on, as I thought, rightly, when a woman came forward and showed me that I was going a wrong course for the Hotel de l'Europe, which she very justly imagined I was seeking, though at the time it was very distant. On the other hand, from a long familiarity with scenes of famine, blood, and slaughter, their feelings have become wonderfully blunted: this has often been exemplified to me by various little street scenes, which, I consider, very much display the natural disposition of the people.

From my window I was often the witness of events which betrayed that total want of the common feelings of humanity, so striking in the Greek character. I remember a boy who was in the habit of passing every day with a basket of loaves, which I had often thought far too heavy for him: one morning, as he was labouring along on his usual course, a workman who was, with many others, digging a trench, threw a stone at him, out

of mere wantonness, and hit the unfortunate boy on the ancle, so violently as to draw blood, and to cause him to fall. There were many spectators who witnessed this unprovoked outrage, not one of whom showed the slightest sympathy for the lad, but, on the contrary, set up a hearty laugh. At another time, I saw a little white-headed child, perhaps of eighteen months old, fall, and lie crying on the ground; and I counted eight Greeks who passed, and not one extended a hand to help the poor infant. Would this have been the case in any other country in Europe? Many persons whom I knew, and on whose veracity I could rely, assured me, that they had repeatedly witnessed similar scenes, proving the total callousness of the Greeks to any sensation of sympathy or compassion.

I shall conclude this subject, by stating what occurred to two of my friends, on the first of May. They took horse, and had proceeded far into the country, when one called to the other, requesting support, as he felt himself sinking: his companion did sustain him for an instant, but immediately after, he himself fell forwards on his face. The other then gained sufficient strength just to call

to some Greek peasants who were passing, but who showed an extreme unwillingness to give any assistance, until some money was produced, and which they accepted. These gentlemen had been struck by a *coup de soleil*. Fortunately, they had dismounted from their horses, or they might have been severely injured: one cut his cheek and mouth, and was compelled to have the wound sewed up, and both were obliged to keep their beds some time, with fevers.

It will be well for persons to know, that the cause of their misfortune was the wearing thin straw hats, which were not sufficiently substantial to defend their heads from the power of the sun. Had they put handkerchiefs in their hats, as many do, they would not have received any injury.

From this circumstance happening so early in the season, it may be imagined how tremendous is the power of the sun at a more advanced period, and what the foreign Philhellenists, who came from more temperate climates, had to endure, in their toilsome march through a country, the major part of which offered not the shelter of either house or tree, when to this hardship are added the frequent

privations from want of food, and, more than all, the ill-treatment and ingratitude of the Greeks.

Of the difficulty they had to restrain their cruelties when any unfortunate Turkish prisoners fell into their hands, a more powerful proof perhaps could not be cited, than in the case of the young Belasque, the son of a merchant at Marseilles, who, full fraught with enthusiasm for the deliverance of the Greeks from slavery, left the paternal roof, and repaired to the seat of war and, as he hoped, of glory. Though but a youth, his fine person, his undaunted courage, still tempered with a judgment rare at his age, gained him an ascendancy amongst his mountain comrades, that few strangers had acquired; but his manly deportment and his extraordinary prowess commanded their respect, and ultimately so gained their love, that he soon obtained an influence, and even an authority over them, which awed the rude barbarians. But often he had a hard part to play. Being stationed at a little town near the sea, having a small force with him, he had occasion to display his humanity, discretion, and intrepidity.

Some Turkish vessels appeared, loaded with

troops: alarmed at their numbers, the Greeks proposed abandoning their town, and flying to the mountains, after murdering about seventy Turkish prisoners, who had hitherto been spared to the intreaties of Belasque. Notwithstanding the inferiority of his little troop, he would not hear of retreat; but having wrung a promise from the governor of the place that he would preserve the lives of the prisoners, he marched his band to the coast, and so ranged them round the base of a semicircular hill, that the end of their line could not be seen from the sea. By this means the Turks could not form an idea of their numbers, and remained in their ships, merely reconnoitering the Greeks with their glasses.

Belasque's heart now misgave him, as to the prisoners he had left behind; and having consigned his soldiers to the command of the officer on whom he thought he could most rely, he galloped back to the town at full speed, where he found the treacherous governor preparing to massacre the unfortunate captives. Denouncing vengeance upon him, and the inhabitants, if they offered to touch a hair of their prisoners' heads, he, by his imposing manner, extorted at length the most solemn oaths

from them, that the poor wretches should not be molested during his absence; and again, with the utmost rapidity, he returned to his little band. To his utter vexation, he found them on the point of retreating, perceiving the Turks making demonstrations for landing their troops.

Belasque thundered forth an anathema against the timidity of his comrades, and with stentorian voice, commanded them to stand. They remained immovable. He then bade them, with a bold front to the foe, set up a shout of defiance, and at the same moment all at once to fire; though they were too distant from the enemy for it to have any other effect than that intended, viz., to prove to the Turks, that they were so well stocked with ammunition, they could afford to waste (which in fact was not the case), whilst the shouts and reports of their pieces being re-echoed by the mountains, induced the Mussulmans to suppose they were much more numerous than they actually were, who consequently tacked about, leaving Belasque the uncontrolled master of the place.

This affair, as might be supposed, contributed to raise him in the opinion of the Greeks; but

alas! poor young man, he was not always doomed to be so fortunate. Long after this event, he commanded a small force in Candia, consisting of Greeks, who, conceiving, they perceived a favourable opportunity of giving battle to the Turks, insisted upon being led forward. In vain did Belasque represent the impossibility of success, on account of the nature of the ground, and other causes. Finding them impenetrable to any arguments, he headed them, and advanced to destruction.

By this time he well knew the men he had to deal with, and that if he refused the combat when they demanded it, he should for ever be despised by his own troops, though he had so often urged them on, when their doubts and fears restrained them. He also knew how prone they were to fly in disorder at the first symptom of reverse. Thus situated, Belasque did all in his power to make the most of the ardour of his men, and onwards they marched to the attack; but the Turkish position was infinitely too strong for them, enabling the enemy to pour a tremendous fire amongst the Greek ranks.

After sustaining the contest a short time, the

Greeks, perceiving Belasque drop wounded, took to flight; but, being unable to run, he was carried a short distance by a few attached Philhellenists. At length, finding that the Turks gained fast upon them, and their burthen much retarding their progress, they listened to his intreaties to save themselves, and leave him to his fate.

Neither persuasions nor commands, however, would move his servant, who, to the honour of his nation, was Greek. The poor fellow seated himself beside his wounded master, and weeping over him, waited the approach of the Turks, who, with their sabres, directly began mangling the unfortunate Belasque, and even deliberately cut off one of his legs, before they finally despatched him. Ultimately they sent his head to Constantinople, where a gentleman I knew, recognized it, having long been one of his intimate friends.

Thus was recompensed this young and mistaken enthusiast, having interested himself for a people who had not sufficient solidity to be firm and true to their own cause. The poor servant was spared: the Turks were so astonished at such an instance of devotion, that they regarded him as some superhuman being, and refrained from

shedding his blood; nay, even suffered him to remain at liberty.

Fabvier was nearly meeting as bitter a fate as that of Belasque, having more than once been in danger of being massacred by the very men for whom he had fought and sacrificed every thing.

When the French troops occupied a part of Greece, although they were there in the light of friends, there was frequently a propensity to treat them as enemies on the part of the Greeks: it was seldom, however, that these dissensions absolutely proceeded to acts of violence. Yet one instance there was at Argos and Napoli, wherein both parties had recourse to arms, and many were killed and wounded on each side.

The discontent of the Greeks towards the French had been much fomented by an individual, who was either Ionian or Maltese. Having been guilty of some misdemeanor towards the French troops, some slight punishment was inflicted upon him; probably confinement for a few days, but sufficient to excite his revenge, which he gratified by endeavouring to excite the Greeks against their Gallic friends. Being taken, however, in the fact, he was

tried, and found guilty, but pardoned, and set at liberty. Having learnt that the French soldiers at Argos, where he had been confined, intended the same evening, after his liberation, to dismount their arms, for the purpose of cleaning them, he considered so golden an opportunity of attacking them was not to be lost. He therefore exerted himself considerably in haranguing the Greeks, and prevailing on them to attack the French at so favourable a moment. Accordingly, the inhabitants of Argos, assisted by some persons from the country, surrounded the barrack-yard with such caution that they were not seen or suspected, until they poured their fire upon the French troops, at the very moment when they had taken their muskets to pieces, and were in the act of cleaning them. Many soldiers, fell from this discharge; but their comrades soon got together their arms, and vigorously attacked their assailants, who soon fled in all directions, and sheltering themselves in their houses, fired from the windows (or rather holes) upon every French soldier within musket-shot. The latter, however, were soon victorious, forcing the houses, and taking a terrible vengeance, that will ever be

remembered, as in the indiscriminate fire which took place several women and children were sacrificed. A bitter reproach was cast by the Greeks upon the troops, and one instance was stated, of a French soldier having taken aim, and deliberately killed a woman, which was true; but she had just shot one of his comrades, and was preparing to reload her musket for further execution, at the very instant that a bullet ended her career.

The man who stirred up all these discordant elements, and caused the loss of so much life, was taken and shot, after a very short trial. This affair operated upon the Greeks so severely, that they never again attempted to molest the French troops.

One instance of the audacity of a Greek, in the mode of committing a robbery, occurred, which I think is unparalleled. Monsieur Perraut, a French officer, had purchased a fine Arabian horse of a Greek, who tried some manœuvres to obtain the money before he delivered the animal; but Perraut knew the world too well to pay beforehand. The Greek, therefore, came the next day with the horse, which was placed in a

stable, and Perraut paid the price demanded, but was surprised to see the Greek, after receiving the money, again bring forth the horse, and mount it under pretence of displaying some particular gambol which the animal had been taught, but was no sooner well seated, than he started off at full speed. Perraut, seeing through the trick and being an excellent runner, by taking a short cut, overtook the thief, who was obliged to follow the horse-road, which making a circuit, he lost just as much ground as gave his pursuer sufficient advantage to get up with him, and catch hold of his bridle, which Perraut effected with great address. The Greek, determined not to relinquish his prize, drew his yatagan and wounded Perraut in the side, who dropped, and the robber once more set off at full gallop; but Perraut's dragoons had not, in the mean time, been idle spectators of the affair, several already being on horse, and in full pursuit; but the runaway, better mounted, still kept a-head, and continued rather gaining than otherwise, when those pursuers who were nearest to him perceiving the impossibility of overtaking the Greek, fired after him and brought him down mortally wounded. The horse

was recovered, and fortunately untouched. The money found upon the Greek was kept, in case of any claimant appearing, who might be entitled to it; but none coming forward, it was ultimately divided amongst the soldiers who entered into the pursuit of the thief, and became the means of recovering the Arabian.

A great portion of the Greek peasantry, who would despise any one for slyly stealing in a sneaking way, attach an idea of something noble to robbing in bands travellers, and their escorts, who were capable of making resistance; as they regard it in the same light as regular warfare. Having been so long in a state of hostilities with the Turks, they had been in the habit of associating themselves in parties together, for the purpose of attacking small bodies of Turks, who formed the only passengers that traversed the country. They considered themselves as soldiers fighting for their independence; and, for the common cause, were undoubtedly very useful in promoting the success of the revolution, inasmuch, that they greatly harassed the enemy, and often cut off their supplies. They were a sort of free

troops, or klephts, who received no pay, but were sanctioned by the sort of provisional government which existed at the time; and having neither money, clothes, nor provisions from their employers, they were allowed to help themselves, which they did with no sparing hand, and at last began to like that sort of loose roving life so well, that they had no wish to quit it; and when there were no more Turks to plunder, they way-laid other travellers, as a matter of necessity, contending that everybody must live, and that property should belong to the brave.

In the same manner, the men who inhabited the coasts fitted out vessels, and carried on the same game at sea as their countrymen of the interior did by land. And if the present government were to scrutinize the character of their troops and seamen, they would find that their best soldiers had been banditti, and their best sailors pirates. But in this respect we cannot reproach the modern Greeks with degeneracy, as, amongst the Spartans, thieving was not considered a vice. But men who have long been accustomed to a freebooter's life, whether by land

or by sea, are extremely difficult to domiciliate; and the remark may be considered as applicable to half the present population of Greece.

The desire of appropriating to themselves that which belongs to another is the ruling passion with the Greeks; and however, in our own, and other countries, we have heard of articles of all descriptions being stolen, yet one sort of thieving I never heard of, until I arrived in Greece. A family, who had lost one of its members, had ordered the grave to be dug, and prepared for the funeral, which was to take place the following morning; but another family, having a similar misfortune, in the course of the night, availed themselves of the grave that was ready, thereby saving the expense of having one dug; clapped in their coffin, with its contents, and covered it up; and, as it is not permitted to disinter a body, without great difficulties, they kept possession, retaining the full benefit of the theft they had made.

With this inordinate love of self-appropriation, their rapacity in plundering may be imagined, and was most fully displayed at the taking of Tripolitza. After every portable article of any

value had been carried off, even for a fortnight subsequent, Greeks still kept arriving from distant parts of the country, and rather than go back empty handed, loaded their horses or asses with the windows and the doors! The cruelties there exercised on the Turkish women are too revolting and indecent to bear description, although some authors in detailing them, have given particulars too horrid and disgusting to appear in print. It is true that they received the greatest provocation that it was possible for their enemies to give; as, whilst the Greeks were besieging the city, the Turks seized such priests as they could find of the Greek church, and crucified them on crosses sufficiently elevated for the besiegers to behold their sufferings. In fact it was completely a war of demons; but it must be admitted by every impartial person, that the Greeks, in cruelty and bad faith, far exceeded the Turks. The latter, in a few instances, did display some traits of humanity; but I never heard of any such example from the Greeks, except that they had been awed into some act of moderation by the Philhellenists. Every allowance is to be made for the causes which have produced so

many bad feelings in the present Greek character. Oppressed by their barbarous rulers, craft, and falsehood became necessary to their interests, and sometimes even to their self preservation, as regarded their lives: hence has arisen that constant practice of dissimulation, which at last has become habitual.

In most of the transactions which I had in my profession with the Greeks, they found out some means of cheating me; and one circumstance occurred, that was so amusing, that I cannot refrain from giving my readers the full benefit of the farce, which one of their principal chiefs played me. His name was Grivas; he came to me for his picture, attended by his pipe-bearer, his interpreter, and I suppose his valet; and brought with him a choice costume, that was certainly most splendid, and in which he adorned himself in order to look to the best advantage, in his portrait; but his manner of putting on his sash was very singular: one breadth was fastened round his waist; the servant then went with the other end to the opposite side of the room, holding it as tight as possible, whilst the master whirled himself round until he reached

the other extremity of the sash, by which he then became encompassed; but nothing can be imagined more ludicrous, than to see the high and mighty general, as he considered himself, with the most solemn gravity, twisting himself about the room just like a spinning top.

When I had finished his portrait, he sent me some pieces of gold, and I thought, as they were showy looking coin, they were of more value than they proved to be, and that he had sent me more than my due, and applied to Bruno, my landlord, not wishing to retain that to which I had no claim; but he, who knew the Greeks better than I did, immediately said, "Don't alarm yourself, Sir, on that score," assuring me that it was far more probable that there was a deficiency than an overplus; and so it proved, there being four pieces minus.

Some time after, wanting some alteration in the costume, Grivas re-appeared, and I informed the interpreter of the error which had been committed; to which he replied, that he did not know how to communicate such a thing to his master; that I had not a man of the mountains to deal with, but a general. I then observed, that

it was very indifferent to me, whether I had to do with a man of the mountains or a general: all I wanted was an honest man. The substance of what I said was communicated to Grivas, for, although he looked very dignified at first, yet, in going out, he presented me his great hand, something less than a leg of mutton; then extending his arms to their utmost stretch, he made me understand that he would send me a pipe as long as the extent he described, that should be worth ten times as much as the sum he owed me.

Many months passed away, ere I heard more of him or his pipe, nor should I probably to this day, had not General Church wished for a portrait of him, to form one of a collection, which I had been painting for Sir Richard, of his principal chiefs, for whom he entertained the greatest friendship. Accordingly, Grivas came, and sat to me once more, but looking rather foolish, from the recollection that he was still my debtor. When the likeness was finished, he was so delighted with it, that he begged to have a copy for himself, with which I was not very ready to comply, from a recollection of how he before had mulcted me. At last, there was no resisting his

intreaties. I promised to undertake it; but when the day of reckoning arrived, he showed himself in his true colours. He began stalking with a melancholy air up and down the room, occasionally heaving a sigh; and when he thought that he had sufficiently paved the way for what was to follow, he sat down, and broke the silence, by saying he was very poor. Knowing the contrary, I did not much attempt to pity him. As he had no interpreter with him, our conversation was in broken Italian, and it was about a match between us which spoke it the worst. After a few more sighs, groans, and lamentations, at length he came to the point, by saying, very pitifully, "What is to be done about this picture?" "Why you must pay for it, to be sure," I coolly replied, which produced increased moanings and groanings on his part. At last, finding me impervious to any feelings of compassion, he asked me what he must pay? and on my telling him that which I had before stated, and the same as other people paid, he uttered all the complaints his stock of Italian could muster; but suddenly he started up as if inspired, an idea having struck him, and with a smile, expressive of great self-satisfaction, he informed me, that a

thought occurred to him, by which we could arrange the affair agreeably to us both; and that was, that I should make General Church pay half as much again for his copy, and that he (Grivas) should only pay half for the one he was to retain. Thus, he observed, it would be the same thing to me, as I should obtain my price for both copies.

The sentiment here displayed was, I think, new in the annals of friendship. Sir Richard, from a kindly feeling for a brother in arms, and from a motive of affection which he entertained for his comrades, willingly pays for his friend's picture, and one of these Greek friends wants me to pick the General's pocket, in order to put something in his own. I represented this to him, endeavouring to convince him what an infamous part we should both be acting. This he could not at all understand, having ever been accustomed to regard cheating as an accomplishment, forming a branch of education. But, on my observing that I had already taken many for the General, the charge of which was fixed, and must ever be the same, this, at first, rather appeared to pose him; but he was not yet beaten, for, reflecting an instant, he

returned to the charge, endeavouring to induce me to persuade the General that the picture in question was much better done than any other, until finding me totally deaf to all his arguments; he produced a gold coin, and in order to discover whether I was aware of its value, *he* affected ignorance, and asked me how much it was worth, which I stated, according to what I had understood. "Oh," returned he, "it is much more than that (although the fact was the reverse). Finally, he paid me, as I thought, correctly; but, seeing him go out with a very cheerful countenance, I suspected all was not right, and, on inquiry, found that he had at last contrived to cheat me out of a few drachms.

Many may consider that I have dilated far too much on so trivial a circumstance; but it is so truly characteristic of the Greeks, that were I to write volumes, I could not give any description of them, which dived more deeply into their hearts' core. Their adoration of money, or rather property, absorbs every other feeling; and I do not believe it possible for any government, however enlightened, considerably to improve the present

race of Greeks; but the next generation, I have no doubt, will present to the world a much more favourable specimen.

Having several times alluded to General Sir Richard Church, I shall here relate a circumstance which proves the inscrutability which hangs over the destinies of man. The General, liberal in his feelings, through a connexion of various circumstances, became commander-in-chief of the Neapolitan forces, and conducted the campaign against the patriots in that struggle, which terminated so fatally for the latter. Opposed to him was General Pisa, whose troops were defeated, himself obliged to fly, and a price put upon his head. General Church, in his military and official capacity, instituting a pursuit against General Pisa, as well as the other officers in the Carbonari's service; as, although Sir Richard's feelings were on the side of his opponents, a feeling of honour and duty bade him serve to his utmost that power to whom his oath of allegiance had bound him; and this sentiment I have heard him express.

Some time after this General Church arrived in Greece, shared in its struggles for liberty and independence, and when it became a question

as to a liberal or a despotic party, the General ever declared for the former, and thus became obnoxious to Capo d'Istrias. General Pisa also came to Greece, and also bore his part in her contests, but attached himself to the high aristocratic party, and was employed by Capo d'Istrias to arrest General Church, who had become the avowed opponent of the President's measures: thus General Pisa became in his turn the pursuer, and General Church the pursued. But the death of Capo d'Istrias changed the face of affairs, and when the present government was established, the contending parties were brought together in harmony; and the two generals to whom I have alluded, I have often met in the same parties, appearing to be on an amicable footing together; in fact, I had the pleasure to know them both, and never heard either say a word against the other; and this is not the only instance in which those who had been before opposed to each other, both in the council and in the field, have met in Greece, in good fellowship, and have become intimate friends, which has been most particularly the case with French and English.

CHAPTER IX.

SCENES AT COURT—ITS FREQUENTERS—PHILOSOPHY—COURT CONVERSATIONS—DIPLOMATISTS—A POKING GENTLEMAN—LESSONS ON LISTENING—RUSSIAN DIPLOMACY—ENGLISH ATTACHÉS—THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INFORMATION—EXTRAORDINARY APPOINTMENT—DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTIONS—RUSSIAN AGGRANDISEMENT—GUARDED POLICY—ANTIPATHY TO OPPONENTS OF CAPO D'ISTRIAS—SWEDISH CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES—HIS TALENTS AND CAREER—TYRINS—ITS EXTREME ANTIQUITY—ARGOS—ITS SINGULAR CATHEDRAL—TOMB OF AGAMEMNON—GATES OF MYCENÆ—PAUSANIUS—IMMENSE WASTE OF UNPRODUCTIVE LAND—SNAKES—SCORPIONS—BEDSTEADS—DOGS, ENCOUNTERS WITH THEM—HOW TO DRIVE THEM OFF—NOCTURNAL RAMBLES—CLOSED GATES OF NAPOLI—GREEK CUSTOMERS—BUYING ENGLISH ARTICLES—IDEAS OF PAINTING—EXTRAORDINARY MINIATURE—GREEK COSTUMES—MODERN GREEKS, A MIXED RACE—THEIR PERSONAL APPEARANCE—TURKISH ADMIRAL—PHYSICAL STRENGTH OF THE GREEKS—HEAT OF THE CLIMATE—HORSES FOR HIRE—GREEKS GOOD HORSEMEN—PRISONER'S ESCAPE.

WHEN inferior persons attempt to imitate those who are superior, they generally seize hold of some peculiarity or fault, which, in aping, they ever exaggerate. Thus, with the little court of King

Otho, its members, in endeavouring to give it an importance that should raise it to the level of the higher courts, attempted more etiquette than is observed by the first-rate powers, which, instead of increasing its dignity, rendered it ridiculous. If, perchance, one was talking to a lady, and the King happened to pass behind one, there were always plenty to roar out "You turn your back upon the King!" a circumstance which must arise sometimes, unless the monarch thought proper to remain stationary, whilst the company were indiscriminately circulating. At the court of France this punctilio is not so strictly enjoined. Some looks and hints were also sometimes given, expressive of disapprobation of the ladies' costume. It must be admitted that the daughters of the President were ever clad in the simplest attire, which is supposed to be the reason why their mother always looked severely upon any ornaments that were the least obtrusive.

The lady styled the modern Helen once went to one of the balls in her jewels; but the presiding countess so scowled at the offending fair one, that she, who was all gentleness, never dared sport her brilliants there again.

On another occasion, reproof was not confined to looks. A young Greek lady appeared in a comb, somewhat elevated, studded with diamonds. The mistress of the ceremonies soon cast upon it her stern and withering look, and stalking up to the wearer, told her she thought she would do well to remove that comb; that, as she sometimes waltzed with the king, it might go into his eyes, and hurt him very seriously; terminating by saying, "Rely on it my dear, a simpler comb will become you better."

Ill-natured people said, the President's lady could not bear that any one should wear any thing smarter than her daughters; hence, her extreme aversion to seeing any display of diamonds, jewels, or any thing that appeared rich or costly. Be that as it may, certainly her own daughters were far more attractive in the simple costume they ever wore, than any of those ladies who were more richly attired; being a perfect illustration of Thompson's idea, that "Beauty needs not the foreign aid of ornament, but is, when unadorned, adorned the most." The second was a general favourite, and being named Sophy, gave rise to a singular play upon words. I was

mentioning that young lady in a favourable manner, when a gentleman said with a sigh (perhaps himself somewhat touched), that it was but too perceptible that *philosophy* had become very prevalent in Greece amongst the young men.

The conversations are generally of rather a light description in public assemblages of this nature; but I was witness to one between the monarch and one of the ambassadors, so remarkably sapient that I cannot refrain from indulging my readers with it; but it being impossible to give all the gesticulations which accompanied it, the treat cannot be so rich as it proved to me.

I have heard that gaping was infectious, but never saw it exemplified; but that nodding is so, I can positively attest, having a practical proof during the following dialogue. Dramatis Personæ, the King of Greece and a certain ambassador.

King—It is a very fine day (a little nod).

Ambassador—A very fine day, your majesty (a respectful bow).

King—But very warm (another nod).

Ambassador—Very warm, indeed, your majesty (a slight inclination).

King—How do you like Napoli? (two little nods).

Ambassador—Very much, your majesty (a responsive nod).

King—Oh, very much?

Ambassador—Very much indeed, your majesty.

King—How do you pass your evenings?

Ambassador—Very agreeably, your majesty. (Here the nods became so incessant on both sides, that they resembled those figures which the Italian boys carry about on their boards, and whose heads appear loose, and are always shaking.)

The King continued—Is there much visiting amongst the society here?

Ambassador—Yes, your majesty. Madam Mavrocordato and Madame Gasser regularly receive on the Tuesdays and Thursdays; and the other evenings the gentlemen pass alternately at each other's houses.

King—And how do they amuse themselves at Argos?

Ambassador—Please your majesty, Madam Gordon, Madam Papalexopolo, and Madam Kalergi, receive each a night in the week.

"Oh, Madam Gordon, Madam Papalexopolo, and Madam Kalergi, receive each a night in the week," repeated the acquiescent monarch, and,

satisfied with the additional stock of information he had just received, passed on to another oracle, to gather a farther supply. Whilst the ambassador, relieved of the King's presence, took a pinch of snuff, and caressed his nose a little with his fingers and thumb, when it was evident that "Richard was himself again," by the manner in which he snuffed up the consoling dust; pleased with the signal honour he had received, in being engaged in converse with the King, and still more delighted in having got rid of him.

The foregoing conversation may serve as a fair sample of the majority that take place between monarch and subject at levees, public receptions, &c.; but why some persons should be so tremendously awed by being brought in contact with majesty, appears to me most surprising, particularly in the case of the diplomatist above alluded to, who was a man remarkable for his non-chalant sort of off-hand confidence; yet, when conversing with the King, his confusion was manifest; and though an extremely clever man, his self-possession in some degree forsaking him, his external appearance assumed rather the air of imbecility than of talent, which his physiognomy usually de-

noted; and although not generally given to nodding, yet, during his discourse with the sovereign, in returning so many sympathetic nods to the royal nodder, at last he himself looked like a perfect noddee.

I gave a description of the above amusing little scene to a Mr. F——, who himself, shortly after, was addressed by his majesty, and engaged by him in a colloquial *entretien.* Mr. F—— declared afterwards he was so fraught with the account I had given him of the dialogue between the king and the ambassador, that he vowed he had the greatest difficulty in keeping *his* head still, and so doubted whether he succeeded in so doing, that he asked me if he really did retain it in a tolerably fixed position, feeling an inclination almost irresistible to keep up a nodding duet in harmony with his sovereign, yet fearing that his majesty might think he was mocking him; at the same time assuring me that his efforts to keep his sconce in a proper state of due subjection, had absolutely given him a stiff neck.

The *élite* of every court will be generally found amongst the ambassadors, as far as regards conversational powers, and those requisites which form

the charms of society, as they are mostly obliged to go through the minor grades of attaché, secretary, &c., at different courts. They of necessity become travelled men, before they arrive at the summit of their profession. The superiority of the diplomatists over most of the characters forming the circles in the various *salons* in Greece, was more evident than in other countries, as so few of its natives had the opportunities of acquiring either the education or the address which a communication with polished life alone can render, to form the accomplished man of the world.

Amongst the ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, secretaries, consuls, &c., assembled at Napoli, there certainly were some curious characters, one of whom was so singularly energetic, that he was not content with arousing one's attention by words, but had a habit of poking one with his finger, when he wished to make a considerable impression upon his auditors. He was, without exception, the most indefatigable talker that I ever encountered; the incessant power of his lungs was inexhaustible; and I never met with a man who was more exacting in his demands, upon one's listening to him, with the most undeviating exclu-

siveness: with one hand he seizes you by the button, and with the other he keeps his finger ready stuck out to poke you, in case your attention should for an instant relax.

I admit that there is much in the art of listening, and I had flattered myself that it was the accomplishment in which I most excelled, perhaps the only thing that I ever could do well; and, I verily believe that the society of persons have much oftener been courted for the sake of their listening, than for the sake of their talking; and I always imagined that what attentions I had received in my progress through the world were due to the high perfection to which I had brought the art of listening: to shake the head for a negative, to incline it for an affirmative, to smile or look grave in the right places, and to keep the eyes fixed upon that part of the speaker's face which is between the brows, was a lesson I received when a boy from a very particular old gentleman, who was remarkably celebrated for his long-winded stories; but it appears that I was not a very apt scholar, in the opinion of the official personage, of poking notoriety, at Napoli, having been called to order by him in the most impressive manner,

spending an evening with him, when he had pinned me as usual. I had my tea in my hand; and although my gaze had been unremittingly dedicated to his countenance, and my ears to his volubility, yet I thought I might, without breach of etiquette, give one glance to my cup as I conveyed it to my mouth. But no! the moment I averted my eyes from the features of the perpetual speaker, in order to recal my attention, he gave me such a poke, that I really think his finger went half an inch into my side; so tickling and startling me that I gave such a jump, that I upset my tea and tea-cup all over the addresser's white trowsers; and I verily believe that neither he nor I will ever forget the circumstance.

But in respect to diplomatic agents, the Russians certainly have a decided advantage, all the establishments connected with their embassies being conducted on the most liberal scale; and the individuals attached to them being persons whose education has been so modelled as to qualify them for that career. Not only are the secretaries and attachés to the different ambassadors well versed in those languages which are most required in society, or for correspondence

with the various powers of the globe, but they have also a thorough knowledge of statistics, geography in its minutest points, history, both modern and ancient, and a general idea of political economy. Often have I been surprised at their retentive memories regarding the division of provinces, the source and course of rivers, &c., of countries they had never visited, or of historical events occurring in nations remote from them, in whom one would imagine they could have little interest. As strikingly deficient is the general system of our diplomacy, and must ever be so, whilst the error commences, as it does at present, at the root.

Circumstances have so occurred as to occasion me to have known numbers of the young men who fill the subordinate situations in our embassies, and I have universally found that they ride well, dress well, are fond of shooting and hunting, dance quadrilles, play ecarté, and have sufficient stock of small talk to pass current in the drawing-room with the ladies; but as to the discharge of their official duties, that is confined to a very limited scale; being engaged principally in copying letters, and the making up parcels. It

is of course imagined that, from the position which they occupy, they will endeavour to avail themselves of the opportunities they have of instructing their minds, from the constant association with eminent characters, which their situation enables them to command, and the introduction that is afforded them of entering the very first society that exists in the country, wherever their services may be required. Yet how rare is it that they profit by such advantages.

I remember a circumstance occurring, which will serve as an illustration of the foregoing remarks. Conversing with some Russian officers, I expressed my astonishment at their stating that, at that time, their government had thirty-six ships of the line in commission, and on my observing that I did not believe that England had more than twelve or fourteen, they in their turn became surprised, and imagining that I must make a mistake, appealed to Mr. ——, an attaché to an English embassy, who in reply to the question put to him, said he did not know exactly, but he was sure we had at least thirty ships of the line in actual service. Upon which all the Muscovites exclaimed, "Ah! that was much more likely; and

that they thought it was not probable that the greatest naval power in the world, should have in employ so *small* a number of the largest class of vessels, even though reduced to the peace establishment;" and the conclusion was, therefore, no doubt, that I knew nothing about the matter. The fact was, what the Russians termed in commission only meant afloat. However, M—— was all triumphant, it being decided that his information was quite correct; but every dog has his day. I merely begged of them to defer the subject until we met in the presence of Capt. L——, who was commanding an English frigate then on the station; and a few evenings after we again all assembled at the Russian embassy, and Capt. L—— being present, he was referred to as umpire, and confirmed what I had stated; and I could not refrain from informing Mr. ——, that Capt. L—— had convinced the Russian officers that I was right, but he did not appear to care about it, being infinitely more interested about the game of ecarté which he was playing.

This circumstance merely proves an ignorance, which in any Englishman who had been in the world would have been remarkable, but much

more so in any one filling a diplomatic situation, whom it would be natural to suppose had somewhat more knowledge than the generality of individuals, respecting the resources of his country, and their application; and had this gentleman's information been put to the test, regarding the forms of his government, its laws, &c. &c., it would have been found equally shallow; yet he was but the type of the majority of these gentry. He was a good shot, a prime fox-hunter; his costume spoke well for his tailor; he played an excellent game at whist, as also at ecarté; he had always something to say, which, although in point of fact was the nothingest of nothing, yet it attracted attention, because his position ensured it, particularly amongst the ladies, as he was what the French style "un bon parti," or to Anglicise it, what parents would regard as a good match. Therefore was his converse always acceptable to mammas; and as for the daughters, they could extract wit from his imbecility, profundity from his shallowness, and if he were about to say aught that he intended for humour, the willing laugh was already prepared by his indulgent auditors.

Thus much for the generality of English at-

tachés; and when we ascend to the goal to which these gentlemen aspire, we there find but little improvement; and with regard to a display of judgment in their appointments of diplomatic representatives, the government, instead of having improved, appear to have retrograded, when we see a captain taken from the deck of a frigate, and suddenly made an ambassador. And although no one could deny but that the individual alluded to, was an excellent officer, and had ever acquitted himself with credit in his professional career, yet those qualities which enabled him to attain a certain reputation as the commander of a ship of war, are not alone sufficient to accomplish him for the more refined *rôle* he will have to perform as the head of an embassy. In that character, it is at any rate requisite to speak French fluently, and to write it correctly, being the diplomatic language in which the correspondence is conducted between all the courts of Europe; and that a more polished address, and education for the representation of majesty is necessary, than can generally be found in the gun-room or cabin of a frigate, every one acquainted with the subject will readily admit; whilst the injustice towards those who had

been for years serving as attachés, or secretaries, caused a universal murmur; as, however those aspirants may be deficient in too many points required in the service they have embraced, they are at any rate, from habit, well acquainted with all the routine of office, and are familiar with that tongue which is the medium of communication throughout European society; and, therefore, to find any one put over their heads, who possessed not any great transcendental talent to sanction a proceeding so foreign to the usual course, naturally excited much dissatisfaction.

In some countries they have institutions or establishments expressly for the instruction of youth intending to pursue the diplomatic career, who study every branch of education which may afterwards be called into practice, according to the different grades they may be wanted to fill, and the various duties they may be required to discharge.

Although, in the usual habit of speaking, in alluding to the different representatives of various nations, we often call them ambassadors, yet that title is frequently given but in courtesy, as it is only to the highest powers that governments send

diplomatists of so high a rank; hence in Greece there were not any who were literally speaking ambassadors; the Russian representative being the highest, and he was envoy; the English, plenipotentiary; the French, minister resident, &c. &c.: in fact, the Russians have but three ambassadors, which are, at London, Paris and Vienna, though, in the language of compliment, the title of Excellency is often given where it is incorrectly applied.

But no country has carried the art of diplomatic finesse to so high a perfection as Russia. Let any one cast a retrospect on the politics of Europe, and they must perceive how successfully she has lulled other powers, whilst she has carried every object that she has undertaken, none of which required more address than the subjugation of Poland, effected, as it was against the sympathies of half Europe. Their acquisitions they have contrived to retain, notwithstanding the murmurs of other nations, whether on the side of Persia or Turkey; whilst the resources of the latter power are at the command of the Autocrat, whenever he may think proper to enforce his demands. Nor are the Russians so detested by

the Turks as we have been led to imagine, which is in some degree accounted for by their stepping in at the critical moment, and checking the progress of Mehemet Ali. In Constantinople and throughout the Turkish dominions, Russia is at present considered the first power, although England, until within a few years, had that reputation, as it must still have in the eyes of every other nation.

However amiable in manners, towards all persons in society, the Russians may be who fill the diplomatic situations, yet essentially party spirit retains its full force in their hearts, and in their actions, even towards individuals. I had a powerful instance of this at Napoli. Mr. ——, an English gentleman, who was rather an influential personage, as being the largest landed proprietor amongst the foreigners in Greece, requested me to introduce him to the Russian ambassador, which I would rather have declined, knowing that Mr. —— had been decidedly anti-Capo d'Istrias, and as such by no means an agreeable subject in Russian eyes. I therefore observed that I thought his ambassador was the more proper person to present him at any of the embassies; to which Mr. —— replied that he had already troubled that gentle-

man on several occasions, and therefore would rather prefer another source of introduction.

I at length consented; and as I was to spend the evening with the Russian ambassador, I promised to take an opportunity of entering on the subject, and accordingly stated that if he would allow me, I wished to have the pleasure of introducing my countryman Mr. ——, who was very anxious to have the honour of his excellency's acquaintance; to which he immediately replied Mr. —— was a very respectable man, and he should be happy to see him. I then asked if ten o'clock the next morning would be a favourable time (that being the hour I always had found the ambassador most at leisure). At first he replied in the affirmative, but afterwards said "Suppose we make it eleven." Accordingly, at eleven I repaired with Mr. —— to the embassy, but found that his excellency had gone out: an after-thought, no doubt, had struck him, that it would not have been agreeable to his government for him to receive Mr. ——; and, meeting him in society the same night, told him I had mistaken the hour, as he had expected us at ten. He then asked Mr. —— how long he intended remaining at Napoli, and was

answered, about ten days. "Then," resumed he, "we shall meet at Athens," where Mr. —— resided, which was plainly telling him he need not trouble himself to call again.

I met the Russian ambassador at the Prussian embassy the next night, when he made many apologies for being out when I called, but pretended I had mistaken the hour; hoping that I would take the earliest opportunity of compensating him for the pleasure he had missed. I thanked him, at the same time convincing him that the error was on his side.

One of the most remarkable characters amongst the diplomatists at Napoli, was the chargé d'affaires of Sweden. He had scarcely the appearance of being forty, yet he had acted, seen, and acquired more than most men at double that age. He could speak nine different languages, some of them with the greatest fluency. He had been in every country in Europe, with the exception of Portugal; he had passed some years in Persia, and recounted many most interesting details of the court, customs, and manners of that country; he had also spent some time in Syria and Egypt; six years of his life had been occupied as aide-de-

camp to Marshal Murat, king of Naples. In addition to all these claimants on his time, he had found leisure to write some extremely clever novels in the French language, which have met with the greatest success, and, as an author, he has acquired some celebrity. Being a communicative man, his conversation, as might be supposed, was highly interesting, when it was possible to obtain it; but, as all the diplomatists at Napoli were so absorbed with whist and ecarté at the different parties, any intellectual intercourse was most effectually checked, as, even those who were not playing were betting; and when any attempt was made at rational conversation by a few individuals, it was eternally interrupted by some one calling out, "Oh, I must go and see after my bet!" which would infallibly break the thread of discourse, in which a few more reasonable beings might be engaged. I have often been astonished at seeing several most superior literary men meet continually together, and, instead of appearing to have the desire to converse with each other, they seem to fly with eagerness to the card table, and waste a considerable portion of their lives in playing some game of chance.

Before I quit Napoli, I must not omit to mention the ruins of Tiryns, or Tyrinthus, the most ancient now extant in Europe. They are mentioned thus in Homer's Iliad:—"Within old Tiryn's strong and lofty walls." It would appear, by the manner in which it is alluded to, that Tyrinthus was at that period a powerful and flourishing city; but, some twelve hundred years after, when Pausanias wrote, it was already a lump of unmeaning looking ruins. They are situated about two miles from Napoli. I passed them on horseback twenty times, without being aware that they were any other than a large mound of earth; but, on hearing what an interesting relic I had thus neglected, I immediately went and examined it closely. I found it consisted of immense stones, placed together in the same order as we mostly find in all the cyclopian buildings; I measured one which proved ten feet eight inches in length, and three feet nine inches in height. These walls are most probably nearly four thousand years old. Tiryns is renowned as having been the birth-place of Hercules, and from its walls he is stated to have thrown Iphitus, and caused his death.

Tirynæ, the son of Argos, is said to have founded

Tiryns in 1379, A. C., but it was probably merely so called at that epoch, being then named after that prince; as there is every reason to presume that its foundation dates from a much earlier period, and its original name was Halcis. It was considered by the Argives, by whom it was destroyed 468, A. C., as far more ancient than their own capital (Argos), of which their records enable them to affix a date, whilst that of Tiryns, they ever considered as lost in the obscurity of extreme antiquity. Its citadel is called, by Strabo, Dukimna. The general opinion of historians is that there are no ruins in any part of the world much more ancient than those of Tiryns, nor any inhabited town in Europe that can trace its origin to so distant an epoch as that of the celebrated Argos, which stands but a few miles from Tiryns, and was founded, according to the chronology of Usher, 1856 years before Christ, that is, twenty years prior to the birth of Jacob, and thirty-three before the death of Abraham. In this city it is recorded that Ceres killed Pyrrhus, about fourteen hundred years prior to the Christian era, not, as has been erroneously stated, the son of

Achilles, being long before that invincible bully existed.

Argos was built by Inachus, and was the capital of the kingdom bearing the same name. Its present population may be from three to four thousand. It is surrounded by plains of extraordinary fertility, but its streets are those which tell of desolation: some are composed of houses half battered down, broken walls and unsightly heaps of rubbish; and oh! the squalid looking faces, of a yellowish-green complexion, to be seen at the doors, with groups of sickly looking children, as though emulating the miserable aspect of their mothers; but here, as well as everywhere else in Greece, the men are as usual ever to be seen lounging away their time at the coffee-houses.

There are the remains of a theatre still to be seen here, supposed to have been erected in the halcyon days of Greece: its form is semicircular; the seats are all easy to be defined, and occasional spaces occur for the convenience of ingress and egress. There are also some Roman ruins, but I could not learn what they were supposed to have been; some description of temple is

P. Reeve Del.

P. Orizzonte Fec.

ARGOS

generally conjectured. But one of the most curious and inconsistent monuments I have ever seen, is the cathedral they have recently built here. They have huddled together a variety of material, which they have beplastered over, and given it something the appearance of some of our new village churches, after they have just been whitewashed; but, as it was in Greece, they imagined that they must endow it with some classic character. They therefore routed out all the fragments they could find, such as the capital of a pillar, a piece of entablature, a bit of a broken column, or a pedestal, or in fact any of the remains of antiquity that they could muster; each served to stop a gap, and form one of the most singular masses of incongruity that I ever beheld.

Four or five miles farther, amongst the mountains, stands the tomb of Agamemnon; a very small village contains the only habitations near it, and I verily believe all the inhabitants, man, woman, and child, followed our little party to the tomb, asking for money on any pretence that they could turn into an excuse for taxing your generosity: one holds your horse while you dismount, asks a reward and gets it; then another catches

hold of the bridle, and takes care of it for you until you again want it; a third holds your stirrup whilst you mount; one points to something to the right, another to the left; and all claim a reward.

We found the tomb in a most extraordinary state of solid preservation, and the interior rising to the summit in a conical form, something the same as the pyramids of Egypt. It was on the 29th of January that we visited this interesting monument; and although we only proceeded at a slight trot, our horses become so warm that we found it well to slacken their pace. The sun shone most brilliantly, and, in winter, Greece, like most other hot climates, is the greenest, and the gayest. The spring is beautiful; a number of varied coloured heaths and other plants shoot forth, some of which emit a most delicious odour; but, in the summer, all nature appears brown, every species of herb or grass being burnt up; and, as there is such a dearth of trees, scarce any verdure meets the eye.

We proceeded about a quarter of a mile farther, to the gates of Mycenæ, which are surmounted by two lions, and a sort of column between them.

This was the capital of Agamemnon, and through these gates most probably he led his host forth to embark for the siege of Troy. Why so many persons should recently have taken it in their heads to doubt that such a place as Troy ever existed, I cannot understand; not only that there are the ruins of the city, on the very spot which, by comparing circumstances in classic history, is indicated as the site of Troy, and that the part of the country where these remains are found is even to this day called Troas,—but that, in Greece, you still find confirmatory proofs in the existing remains of the cities appertaining to the heroes who took part in the great struggle between the Grecians and Trojans; whilst so many of the Greek authors allude to the event, which at that period was never doubted.

Pausanias mentions all the different mementos remaining in his time of that interesting epoch, not supposing that the subject ever had or ever would be questioned. He traces the descent of Pyrrhus for seven generations, which brings it down to the time not very remote from the author's birth. He also mentions a Greek writer who had known a man of an extremely advanced

age, who stated that, in his childhood, he had been accustomed to hear his great grandfather talk of having seen in his youth, some old men who were known to have been some of the soldiers who had returned from the siege of Troy. Athens, Argos, and many cities prior to the contest, had been founded some hundred years, and the use of letters was known; consequently, the means of recording it existed. Yet many of those persons, so sceptical on this subject, are ready enough to believe many other circumstances, connected with English or Scottish history; of towns founded some hundred years before Christ, such as Bath, Colchester, &c., which it was impossible could have been conveyed to posterity, but by oral tradition, as, prior to the landing of Julius Cæsar, no species of literature was known; consequently, any accounts previous to that event can be but conjectural. Therefore, it appears that with those individuals who believe the latter, and doubt the former, it is like straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

As the eye wanders over the wide waste which modern Greece presents, very imperfect, I admit, are the conjectures hence engendered, as to its

state and appearance during the zenith of its prosperity. How highly cultivated must have been her soil,—even, one would suppose, to her mountains' summits,—to have supported that immense population which must have existed in ancient Greece, in her brightest days; the very surface of nature, one would imagine, must be changed, and that which is now but barren rock must once have been covered with fertile earth. The number of kingdoms which existed in Greece formerly, proves incontrovertibly that most of them could not have been more extensive than some English counties, looking over the space occupied by the kingdoms of Attica, Argos, Sparta, Messenia, &c. &c.; but the number of the inhabitants must have been much greater in proportion, than could reasonably be expected from the extent of the territory the different governments possessed. From the armies they were enabled to bring into the field, some idea may be formed of their population, as it is generally estimated that one-eighth only of the bulk of the people is capable of bearing arms. We, therefore, must come to the conclusion that their land must have been amazingly productive, and that they must have had the art of rendering its

advantages available to a most extraordinary degree, when we reflect what they effected, and from comparatively such limited means; admitting that their commerce formed one of the most considerable sources of their wealth.

Before I take leave of Greece, I must not omit to caution travellers against snakes and scorpions. I knew a gentleman, named Sartirioris, whose uncle had recently been killed, whilst reposing under some trees behind his house, by a snake. He was lying on the grass and fell asleep, but was awakened by feeling something entering his mouth, when, putting up his hand, he felt the snake, which at the same moment bit him in the lip. He called his servants, and with much coolness and presence of mind gave orders for killing the serpent; but, before his domestics could convey him to his house, he expired.

Once taking a walk about a mile from Napoli, I saw a most formidable snake. Two English gentlemen were with me, and we immediately resolved upon killing it, which we effected by throwing large stones at it; but my companions called me off, considering I approached too close, as it appears they will fly at you from some distance,

and coil round the leg or arm; and their bite, if not fatal under all circumstances, generally proves so, if too distant from medical aid, or from the means of procuring such specifics as will counteract the effects of the poison. Just as we had given the last mortal blow to the poor struggling reptile, some Greek peasants came up, and said it was one of the most venomous kind. Scorpions are very frequent in Greece. A Mr. Burgass, a friend of mine, was sitting on the grass with several other persons, when he was bitten by one of those insects. Although the pain was acute, it was considered by the surgeon who examined the wound, that but little venom had entered it, having gone principally into the trowsers; consequently the effects of the sting or bite were not so serious as they otherwise might have been feared.

It is pretended that the wound inflicted by this insect is cured by killing it, and rubbing the part affected with the crushed pieces of the animal. These disagreeable creatures, as well as centipedes, are often found in the bed-rooms in Greece, and I should recommend every one living in that country to adopt the method which I had recourse to, to prevent their getting into the bed. Have

an iron bedstead, and take care it does not touch the wall, and let each post stand in a tin-cup of water, and by that means all vermin are prevented from creeping up and entering the bed. True it is that some insects there are that will drop from the ceiling upon your musquito net, and introduce themselves by that means.

Another of the offensive objects in Greece consists in the dogs; they spring out upon one wherever they are seen. Some pretend that persons have been devoured by them, but that numbers of the fiercest have been shot by foreigners, since Greece has become more the resort of strangers. I knew a surgeon, who, whilst riding through Argos, was assailed by a host of these animals, and very imprudently attempting to dismount, was soon pulled to the ground by his canine enemies, and might have been most seriously hurt, had not some persons come to his relief; but as it was, his clothes were torn to ribbons: but, if on foot, the best means of repelling them is to stoop and pick up a stone, or pretend to do so, even if there be not one to be found, as it generally scares and causes them to run, which arises from the extreme certainty with which the

Greeks can always throw a stone: the dogs, having often experienced this, have become frightened at the idea of anything being thrown at them.

It is a curious circumstance that the Greeks, in any trifling quarrel, instead of attempting to strike each other, immediately stoop and pick up a stone to fling at their opponent; and from constant practice from childhood, their aim is so unerring, that I never saw them miss their mark.

I had numerous encounters with the dogs, though not of a very serious nature, and they were chiefly during my nightly prowlings. Ever accustomed to devote my daylight to my professional occupations, I never could find time for exercise till dark, and therefore, like an evil spirit, have been much in the habit of wandering during the night. In the course of these sombre rambles, which I was in the practice of taking from Napoli, at one spot, which I had to pass almost every evening, where there was a group of cottages, seven dogs used regularly to assail me; but, by taking the precaution of providing myself with a stock of stones, and with the aid of a stout stick, I had ever kept myself unscathed.

One night, when proceeding on my usual beat, I

met a Dr. Reiser, the king's physician, as kind a hearted soul as ever existed. Having asked me for where I was bound, he offered to accompany me in my roamings, adding, that he was in that mood that he felt disposed to walk the live-long night. We had not journeyed far together before I began picking up stones, which excited his curiosity; but I had no sooner explained that I was gathering ammunition for an expected attack from the dogs, and recommended him to do the same, than he immediately found out that it was no use our walking any further that night; or, that if we did, we could confine ourselves to pacing up and down where we then were. In vain I urged that it was a more even road as we went on further, and much pleasanter walking: by all the arguments I could adduce, I could not prevail upon him to advance to meet the canine foe; no persuasions could bring him to the scratch.

Another evening I was accompanied by a Greek gentleman, named Pschycha, who seemed to enjoy the thought of the combat, and displayed so much prowess as a marksman, that I felt quite ashamed of my comparative aukwardness. Every stone he threw told as effectually as if they had

been balls fired from a pistol by a first-rate shot; the howlings and retreat of the dogs bearing ample evidence of my companion's dexterity. My nocturnal rovings, which generally extended to between two or three miles from the town, at last excited such observation, that the nomarch of Napoli heard of them, and his brother cautioned me against continuing them, on account of the probability of being stopped, robbed, &c., observing that I might do it a hundred times without injury, but that I might repent it the hundred and first. I thanked him for his advice; and the days getting much longer, the space I had to return in darkness became shorter, and, as I had sometimes companions, I had to incur but little risk; in fact, even in all my solitary nightly rambles I never was in the slightest degree molested, though some months before, when Greece was in a comparative degree of disorganisation, I could not have wandered thus with impunity; a short time prior to my arrival a person having been robbed and shot within a few hundred yards of the gates of Napoli.

One of my great delights was hearing the report, at nine o'clock, of the great gun of the

Fort of Palymede; whilst strolling amongst the rocks, the reverberations of the echo from the amphitheatre of mountains, in the solemn hour of darkness, having an awful effect that was indescribably sublime. But as the gates were shut at that hour, my enjoyment was somewhat alloyed by the doubt whether they would open the wicket to let me in, or doom me to pass the night in my favourite haunts, amongst the craggy beds the nature of the country afforded.

It struck me as very remarkable, that, although Greece certainly is in Europe, yet every one speaks of it in the country, as if it were in some other quarter of the globe; for example, they will say to an Englishman, Frenchman, German, &c., "You, who are an European;" and will ask you, how long since you quitted Europe, at the very time that you still are in Europe. This is not only the case with the Greeks, but I have found my own countrymen, and all other foreigners established in Greece, express themselves in the same manner. This idea of being out of Europe, whilst you are actually in Europe, exists also all through Albania, Servia, Bulgaria, and in fact all over the eastern part of Europe.

The Greeks begin to have some taste for luxuries, although they have a queer way of showing it. They have a high idea of any thing that comes from civilised Europe. I was much amused with some Greek customers, who entered the store which belonged to an Englishman at Napoli. A boy was attending, and explained to them the uses and value of many different articles. At last one of the Greeks took a fancy to some head-brushes, and understanding that they were for the purpose of cleaning the hair, immediately took up one and began brushing his mustachios and eye-brows, and asked the price, but upon being told that it was only three drachms, laid it down with great contempt. When the master of the store stepped forward and shewed them some of the same description, which he said were nine drachms, "Ah!" ejaculated the Greeks, in the most drawling and sonorous manner, adding those were something like, and each purchased one; but, as they were going out of the shop, one man turned back to ask what was the difference between those they had purchased and the others at three drachms, whereupon the vender entered on a most elaborate explanation, and the Greek departed

perfectly satisfied. One of his companions bought a cork-screw, held it up above his head, bid the others look at it, and with an approving and important air, said "It is European!" paid for it, and quitted the store, but came back in a minute or two to know what it was for, and when informed seemed quite enchanted, and ran after his companions to tell them the delightful news.

Many foreigners imagine that the Greeks are deficient in personal courage, because they will take a blow from those whom they consider as Europeans without resenting it; but they have an idea of the superiority of those who come from civilised countries, and regard them almost in the same light as the horse does his rider, and never would dream of exerting their physical strength against beings *they* regard as of a more elevated species than themselves. From any one that they conceive an equal, they would not endure for an instant what they considered an insult.

Although the Greeks are so totally destitute of any idea of the art of painting, they are very fond of displaying their graphic powers on their houses, by adorning them with borders formed by designs

of landscapes, of houses, trees, and figures, which rival each other in stiffness. I was much amused by the manner in which the Greeks handle a picture. When you present them a miniature, or portrait of any one, instead of holding it as we should with the head upwards, they always turn it with the side of the picture so placed as to form the base, and sometimes they will twist it upside down altogether, but never by any chance do they hold it in that direction that a rational being would.

The ex-nomarch (late governor) of Napoli had his son's likeness taken in profile; and the grandmother of the child, when shewn the picture, was very indignant at there being but one eye. I endeavoured to make her understand, through the medium of an interpreter, that the other eye was on the other side, meaning of course the other side of the head; but the old lady mistaking what was meant, turned the paper round, expecting to find the other eye on the other side of the paper. But in this idea she was not alone, as I once saw a miniature painted in Russia, which in front represented a reasonable looking being. I was told to turn it round, when I found the back of

the head and shoulders painted so as to correspond with the front; and I found that the original had given regular sittings for both sides of the picture, so that they had a sort of double likeness, and I was assured that the one side was as striking as the other, and nothing could convince the parties to whom this curiosity belonged, but that if I would introduce that style of portrait (that is, back and front on the same picture), in civilised Europe, I should make my fortune.

One art there is in which the Greeks excel, and that is embroidery, in which they display the greatest taste, and by its aid so considerably add to the beauty of their costumes. On their heads they all wear a round, upright red cap, which coming down to the brow, hides the forehead, and is not becoming: in winter they wind a handkerchief round the lower part of it, which gives it the appearance of a turban, and has a very picturesque effect; from the top a blue silk tassel droops, and has rather a graceful appearance. These caps are all manufactured at Tunis; and the number of them which are there made is immense, as they are universally worn in Turkey, as well as in many other parts. Fesse is the name by which they are called.

The mixture of rich luxury with primitive barbarism is worthy remark. Their jacket of velvet is profusely embroidered, the waistcoat so closely covered with gold lace, and little buttons of the same material, almost touching each other, that it appears one entire mass of gold; and over all this is flung a raw lambskin, forming a sort of cloak. Most of the Greeks of the Morea wear the fostanella, but those of the islands, and of Maina, wear short trowsers or breeches, so remarkably full, that a part of them is pendent in the middle, in a sort of bunch that is always swinging.

As to the dress of the women, it varies so in every island and province, that a description of it would be endless: some are very picturesque, but mostly they are far more singular than beautiful. The islands are much more reputed than the continental part of Greece, for producing handsome women; and one of the most famous is the isle of Tinos.

The Greeks of the present day are perhaps as mixed a race as any in Europe; and the major part of them would be very much puzzled to trace their ancestry to very remote antiquity. Certainly there are the Cantecuzenos and the Pallialogos,

who undoubtedly are amongst the most ancient families in Europe.

Greece has had many masters; and each appear to have left some specimens of their breed. Migrations from Asia have also often added to the population of Greece; hence must have arisen that Jewish style of countenance so frequent amongst many of the handsomest Greeks. In fact, their features have a more Eastern cast than might be expected of Europeans; and every vestige we have in sculpture of the ancient Greeks, presents quite a different style of physiogomy from the present race. The outline of the face was much straighter, and the features smaller; and even in the representation of their most sturdy heroes, no resemblance can be traced of the enormous noses, so prevalent in modern Greece, and which I suspect are of south-eastern origin. In passing through the country, I have sometimes seen that beautiful line of feature so constantly found in the antique; but I doubt not but that I should have found as many in other countries, had I sought them as much as I did in Greece.

The men from Hydra I remarked as being particularly good looking: a fair middle height,

remarkably strong made, very fresh coloured, and fine open countenances; as opposite as possible to the green yellow-looking Moreotes, who have mostly a sinister expression. The Hydriotes almost all look alike. I am not alone in that remark. I remember a stranger, observing a group of these islanders together, declared that such was the resemblance they bore to each other, that it might be imagined they were all brothers.

They are good seamen; indeed, so the Greeks generally are. In most of the naval encounters which took place between Turkey and Greece, the latter displayed a great superiority, both in skill and daring. Notwithstanding this advantage, the Turkish admiral generally contrived to pick up some prisoners, whom he hanged or strangled; and on his entrance to Constantinople suspended them to the yards of his shipping, as trophies of his victorious achievements.

But one capitan-pacha, who had the command of the grand fleet destined for Greece, evinced no other talent than that of getting out of the way of all species of combats; consequently, *had* no

prisoners. What was to be done?—To pass the walls of the seraglio without the accustomed appendages, would have been a reflection on his prowess, which might have covered him with disgrace. At length a bright thought struck him. Amongst his crew were a number of Greeks (many of whom had been long in the service of Turkey); these he hanged, and appeared before the inhabitants of Constantinople with his ships' yards as well ornamented as he could wish, making as good a show as any of his predecessors; and was as well received as any one ought to be, who made his entry, as the French would say, "*couvert de gloire.*"

From the very little the Greek sailors require to keep them, and the small wages they demand, merchants of other nations have found their account in employing them. The physical strength of the Greeks is remarkable. In fact, the weights that I have heard that they will carry appear so incredible that I shall not state them, lest my readers should think I meant to impose on their credulity; although my information was derived from an English merchant at Napoli, on whose

veracity I place the greatest reliance. Certainly, to look at their limbs, one might indeed imagine that they might rival Atlas himself.

I remember amusing myself at a coffee-house, taking the portrait of a pair of legs that would have served for the pillars of Hercules; every muscle so forcibly delineated that they appeared exactly made for the study of an artist; yet they belonged to a lantern-jawed looking rascal, who seemed to me as if he had not had a dinner for the last twelvemonth!

The Greek men are generally naturally graceful; their salutation has something interesting and respectful in it: they bow their heads slightly, and place the right hand on the breast. I was much struck with this custom the first time I witnessed it, during a walk from Napoli to Argos, for the purpose of visiting General G——, starting on the 5th of September, in the middle of the day, shortly after my arrival in Greece, without calculating on the extreme heat of the climate. I therefore state the circumstance, that travellers may take warning by me, and not attempt such walks at noon-day, under such vertical rays.

When I arrived at my friend's, Mrs. G—— burst out laughing at the sight of me. From the effect of the sun I was nearly black in the face. As I had often to repeat the same journey, I took care to perform it on horseback. There are always plenty of hired horses to be had, as I afterwards found, at Pronea, about half a mile out of Napoli: many of them do not go badly, though small and unsightly; but let the rider look well to the girths, and not trust to the Greeks for tightening them, as they do it very insufficiently; so that, if you are not constantly on your guard, the saddle will turn under you; and the horses in this country are very apt to shy, and have a most dexterous method of leaping sideways, sometimes several feet; and as there is often a ditch on each side the only bit of road at that time in Greece, from Napoli to Argos, the rider stands an excellent chance of being canted into one or other of them:

The Turkish saddle is much in use in Greece: it is dangerous in case of the horse falling. In front there is a piece of brass, which rises sometimes nearly a foot high, and the same ornament behind, which reaches half way up the back; and

when seated you appear quite boxed up in your saddle. The stirrups are in the shape of a fire shovel: the broad end has points, which you use as spurs, and of which the horses have an absolute terror. As carts, or any kind of wheeled vehicles, were unknown in Greece, until they were introduced by the Bavarians, the horses are so frightened at them, that it is with extreme difficulty they can be induced to pass them on the road, particularly the artillery waggons.

The Greeks are usually bold horsemen, and look particularly well when mounted. They are likewise famous for running and enduring any fatigue. As swimmers, also, they are equally celebrated: to prove which, I shall relate a circumstance, of which I was informed by a Mr. Simmons, of Constantinople, who was an eye-witness to the circumstance. Soon after the action of Navarin, some Turkish vessels and one of our ships of war were lying within sight of each other: from on board one of the former two Greeks, chained together, jumped overboard, with the intention of swimming to the English frigate; but the weight of the chain was a dreadful clog upon their endeavours. One of them, Mr. Simmons declared, was in form a giant,

except in height, which was not much above the usual average; the other was about the ordinary size of men, and he at length began to sink under the tremendous exertion that was required, until at last his strength totally failed. It was then that the utmost powers of the other were demanded to sustain his sinking companion, as with *his* fate his own was linked: he, therefore, was obliged every instant, with one hand, to catch hold of his drooping comrade, whilst with the other he took his strokes; and still advanced with a burden hanging to him that must have carried any other than such a colossus to his last home. The frigate at length launched a boat for them, and brought them safely on board, to the great joy of the crew, who had been watching the event with the most intense anxiety. The Turks at first fired after them, but without effect. On board the ship, it was found that the stronger of the rescued captives performed such feats as caused him, by the sailors, to be called the Greek Hercules.

I confess this anecdote would have appeared to me too marvellous to be entitled to any credit, if I had not received it from an authority that I

considered unquestionable: yet there are so many passages in the histories of various nations, alluding to heroes of antiquity swimming in their armour, that, although common sense, on the first blush, pronounces it impossible, yet I have known some such extraordinary instances of physical force displayed by Turks and Greeks, that I am now inclined to admit the possibility of many things I should once have rejected as absurd.

CHAPTER X.

ANTIQUITY OF NAPOLI—ITS UNHEALTHY POSITION—HINTS FOR COLONISTS—PRICES OF PROVISIONS, AND LAND—MODE OF PURCHASING IT—INDECISION OF GOVERNMENT—ITS PROPENSITY TO BLUNDER—MORTALITY AMONGST THE BAVARIANS—DISAFFECTION OF THE GREEKS—COLOCOTRONI—HIS TRIAL—BAVARIAN EQUITY—THEIR AGITATING FREAK—THEIR APPOINTING AN AMBASSADOR, AND THEIR DISAPPOINTING AN AMBASSADOR—PROMENADE AT NAPOLI—BAVARIAN BAND—GREEKS FOND OF DRESS—THE LADIES HAVE RECOURSE TO ART—THEIR BAD TASTE—RELIGIOUS FEELINGS—THEIR ABOMINABLE NAMES—THE AUTHOR NEARLY STEALS A HAT—DEPARTURE FROM NAPOLI—MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE—PROCEEDINGS AT SYRA—FRAUDULENT PRACTICES OF CONSULS—DIFFICULTY OF CONVICTING THEM—INTENTIONS TO THAT EFFECT—AN EXILED COUNT—HIS CONTEMPT FOR MEDIOCRE BEINGS—A MISTAKE OF THE SARDINIAN CONSUL—THE COUNT'S INDIGNATION—GLASSES OF WATER FOR SALE—JACKASS FOR DINNER—A GORMANDISER—HIS WONDERFUL GASTRONOMIC EXECUTION—HIS PRUDENT PRECAUTIONS—DIFFERENT OPINIONS ON THE GREEKS—REMARKS UPON THEM BY FLYING TRAVELLERS, AND THEIR SAPIENT CONCLUSIONS—HORRIBLE OUTRAGE—TRAGIC TERMINATION—MURDERER TAKEN, TRIED, AND EXECUTED.

NAPOLI, which the Bavarian government at first constituted the capital of Greece, is also known

by the name of Nauplia, and Napoli di Romania, whilst the Turks call it Anaboli. History states that it was founded by Nauplius, the son of Neptune and Aneymone. It is principally celebrated as having long been the station of the Argive navy. A sort of aqueduct (hardly meriting the name) still conveys water to the town, from the once famed fountain of Carathos, to which fabulous accounts have ascribed such wonderful properties and of which Juno is stated annually to have availed herself.

The few remains of cyclopean walls are sufficient, without the aid of fable, to attest its remote antiquity. The situation of Napoli is most remarkable. The castle and prison of the Palymede is perched on the top of a rock that rises perpendicularly to an immense height over the town. Steps have been formed, in a zigzag direction, for the purpose of ascent, which, when accomplished, affords a recompense which amply repays the toil required in mounting to the summit, the view being immensely extensive. The rock of the Ichkali, also with a prison at the top, bounds another side of Napoli; and as these mountains form an approach to the semicircle, the town can

only be said to remain open on one side, being that which is exposed to the gulph, and a sort of marshy swampy ground, which exhale a most offensive odour: all contributing to render Napoli perhaps one of the most unhealthy towns in Europe.

On account of the sun's rays being reflected from the stone rocks that surround the greater part of the town, the heat is tremendous. In fact, if it were not for one outlet, it would be the same thing as living in the bottom of a basin. I passed a winter there without ever lighting a fire; nor did I ever feel any inclination for one, until March; and having gone so long without one, I braved it out, and soon the power of the sun rendered all idea of a fire out of the question. Fuel, therefore, as may be imagined, is seldom an expensive article; and indeed any one may live long in Greece and spend but little money. Meat is seldom more than two or three pence a pound; bread rather less than half that price; vegetables in the same proportion. Fruit is "cheap and nasty," to use a vulgar phrase, as I never tasted any that was good during my residence in Greece. The grapes were passable, but the skins thick and

hard; their peaches only half ripe and not fine, whether from neglect, or a want of geniality in the climate or soil, I know not; but certain it is, that travellers always remarked how very indifferent was the fruit generally in Greece.

Rent at Napoli, at the time I was there, was extravagantly high; even a small bed-room at any of the hotels was a dollar a day, although at present, since the removal of the Government to Athens, Napoli being totally deserted, rents are low in consequence. The English ambassador's residence is now let for one-sixth what he paid prior to the departure of Otho and his court, ministers, &c.

All the coffee-house commodities are extremely cheap; such as ices, lemonade, tea, orgeat, coffee, &c. Labour is dearer in proportion than provisions; and those who have gone over to Greece, as settlers from England, have found it to their cost: and taking over Englishmen, with the idea of their being able to perform agricultural labour, in such a climate, would be absurd. But amongst the Maltese, many are there who are willing to work, and can endure the heat; and, as the greater part of them are in a state of starvation, most

willingly would they accept any proposal that offered them any prospect of ameliorating their condition; and these are the men who would best suit those who may have any idea of colonizing in Greece, as the Greek labourers have so many holidays, from their religion imposing such numbers of feasts and fasts, that the workman is idle nearly one-third of the year.

Horses and cattle in general are very cheap, as also poultry and eggs, but for their meat I can say but little; the lamb was that which I found the best. They have some species of sheep quite different to any I had before seen, with very large full fleeces, and immensely spreading horns. Buffaloes are very numerous, and more advantageous for the work of husbandry than oxen, being much stronger, and better adapted to the climate. There are immense flocks of goats, and some of the most beautiful varieties: it is their milk, or that of buffaloes, that one generally procures in Greece, and too often their flesh, which is coarser than mutton or beef. Servants, although extremely cheap to Greeks, are not so to foreigners, if they be worth anything.

As to giving any idea of the price of land, it is

impossible. There is little doubt but that it might be obtained for the merest trifle in some situations, whilst in others, as between Napoli and Argos, on the rich plains, it is rather dear. I had a conversation with M. Papalexopolo, formerly nomarch of Napoli, on the subject; and from his explanation, and the comparison I could carry in my eye between their measure and ours (taking their stremma to be about a third of our acre), some of the best fetched as high as from fifty to sixty pounds an acre; but the price is of course much enhanced in proportion to its contiguity to a port, of which the above had the advantage, besides being very rich.

As there are scarcely any navigable rivers and no roads for vehicles, much of the land in the interior, although of a very good quality, is but of very trifling value, as the conveyance to market can only be on the backs of horses, asses, or sometimes camels, which becomes immensely expensive; and if it be a very heavy commodity, and the distance be great, the cost of the carriage will soon equal in value that which is carried, whereas that land which is near the sea, even if the soil be less rich, will be worth more, on account

of the facilities afforded of disposing of its produce.

A friend of mine planted a vineyard of, I think, about ten acres: I believe ultimately the extent of land was to be twenty. He engaged to keep it in good order for three years. He then divides the land with the proprietor, by which my friend becomes possessed of five or ten acres, freehold property, in consideration of having borne the expences of planting ten or twenty acres, rearing, pruning, and cleansing round the young trees, the cost of which wholly to fall upon him for the first three years; after which he has only his own part to manage, whilst the original possessor comes upon his portion ready planted, and the vines beginning to bear.

This agreement is very frequent in Greece, as there are many who possess an immense extent of land, and have not capital to cultivate a tithe part of it. A person named Souzzo, formerly Governor of Missolonghi, and who resides at Athens, told me that he should be happy to make that engagement with all the land he had, being some thousands of acres, not requiring anything farther than the first planting; not considering it necessary to

exact three years' labour, if the requisite number of healthy trees be planted.

At the time I left Greece, affairs were in such a state of confusion, owing to the disunion of the regents, that it was impossible to obtain any other than evasive answers, regarding any grants or sales of the government lands; in fact, they could not act otherwise without betraying their ignorance, as to which lands belonged to the nation, and which to individuals. Hundreds of claimants were constantly besetting the ministers, in vain, ever meeting with prevarication, and being referred to a distant period for the settlement of so delicate a question. So great a portion of the soil of Greece having belonged to the Turkish government, when its downfall was effected, immense possessions fell into the hands of the conquerors; and the division of that spoil was an affair of so difficult a nature, that the Bavarians, with a consciousness of their incompetence, where judgment and decision were required, and their utter deficiency in that which was most necessary, firmness to carry their decisions into effect, have ever been induced to postpone a transaction which they knew they could

not conduct with satisfaction either to themselves or to other parties.

Amongst those who have claims on the present government of Greece are some Turks, who, as inoffensive individuals, having had property in the country, and not having taken any part in the war, merit attention; and their applications have been received, but whether the claimants will ever obtain the restitution of their lands or not, is difficult to determine.

In almost every thing the Bavarians undertook, they committed some blunder. In the *grande place* at Napoli they planted some trees, and heaped the mould a foot and a half high up the stem, which made a little hillock round each tree: the object was to keep the roots moist, but instead of which, it produced a contrary effect, as the earth being drawn up round the trunk in a sloping direction, the wet ran off, and left the trees dry. At length seeing their error, they endeavoured to repair it by running into the contrary extreme, and dug away the mould around each stem half a foot below the level of the ground; a drought following, the roots thus exposed having but a very

slight covering of earth over them, the rays of the sun penetrated to them, and, with the exception of one out of a dozen, the trees died. In planting in a hot, dry country, the best plan is to set the trees much deeper in the ground than in our comparatively cold, wet climate. I recommended a friend of mine to try that plan, and not one out of ten on an average died.

The summer is very trying to strangers. When the Bavarians first came, some hundreds of them were carried off by the insalubrity of the climate; and I believe that had they been *all* taken off, the Greeks would not have been sorry. Almost all nations have a sort of distaste for foreigners as rulers: the very circumstance of their not speaking the same language, occasions a want of sympathy between the native and the stranger. A disposition to revolt amongst the Greeks very soon manifested itself; and Colocotroni, with several other chiefs, were soon imprisoned, and detained many months before their trial came on. A general murmur was excited through the country, at the manner in which it was conducted; and the president of the court was so disgusted with the proceedings, that he left the chair, and of course

was severely reprehended and dismissed by the government. Colocotroni was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment; but, with true Bavarian consistency, was a few months after liberated, and made a counsellor of state!

I was accommodated with a place in the court where I could obtain a good view of Colocotroni, for the purpose of taking his portrait during his trial. His career had been rather an extraordinary one, he having been in the English, French, Russian, and, lastly, in the Greek service; and report states that for a time he had been a klepht. He was one of the most active agents, both in a military capacity and politically, of the Greek revolution. I knew one of his sons, who had, in a great measure, been brought up at Paris (and though his father was a rough soldier of the wildest description, not to say absolutely a barbarian), he was a young man of most gentlemanly manners, and possessing a refined taste. His father being rich, had not spared expense for his son's education, and who amply availed himself of the advantages which had been afforded him.

It was gratifying to an Englishman to see a Briton pleading at the tribunal of justice, in Greek,

as attorney-general, his language being far purer than that of any of the natives; and though he had acquired his first knowledge of the tongue from being well instructed originally in the ancient Greek, yet he had so contrived to amalgamate the modern with it, that he expressed himself in such a manner as to be able to render himself intelligible to his auditors. He was a native of Scotland, named Masson, and was charged with the prosecution of Colocotroni and those who were associated with him, in the alleged conspiracy that had been discovered against the Bavarian government.

An amusing instance occurred of the equitable manner in which these sapient legislators arranged affairs with their Greek subjects. The husband of the modern Helen (whom I have already introduced) had a very large house, a few stones' throw from Napoli, which was to be let, and suiting the interests of the government, they hired it; but, according to Bavarian fashion, they named the amount of the rent. This was their custom in all transactions of this kind; and in this instance the owner was very well pleased with the sum they had fixed, and mentioned it to me with much glee, they having decided upon a hundred dollars per

month. However, his tone was very soon changed: his new tenants had not been installed a week, before they began dismantling the whole of his ground floor, and turning the parlours, kitchen, and other offices all into stables. It was not the only mortification which the landlord had, that of seeing his house completely spoiled, as they brought him in the bill for the alterations they had made, which far exceeded a year's rent! and as they only occupied it about twenty months, the only advantage the owner derived from letting his house to the government, was the seeing it pulled to pieces, and rendered uninhabitable for any private individual!

Some months after this he went to see a relation of his in Russia, who was very rich, and on his return, having, it is supposed, received some accession to his fortune, he was rather liberal of his gold; and the watchful Bavarians then suspected that he was an emissary of Russia, and was distributing money to excite the people to insurrection. On the strength of this suspicion they had him arrested and imprisoned, until they began to think it was possible they might be mistaken, when he was set at liberty.

One manœuvre, emanating from Bavarian genius, animated the town of Napoli for an hour or two to such a degree, that every individual inhabitant appeared more or less excited. This brilliant display of ardour and activity, on the part of these German slugs, was developed towards the close of the day, just as I was about to take my peaceful ramble; but all of a sudden every pacific symptom disappeared, and the noise and din of war pervaded every corner of the streets. The gates of the city were shut, to my great annoyance, as I neither could visit my favourite tree, nor hear the mountain echo of the nightly cannon; in fact, I was cut out of my walk altogether. Drums were sounding the rappel; soldiers were running to the rendezvous, or to seek their arms; officers tried to look martial; and the regents, to their honour be it spoken, were to be seen in the middle of the melée, with countenances most awfully expressive of how deeply they were impressed with the importance of the event, which had so rapidly called all the loyal inhabitants of Napoli together. The questions of "What's the matter?" "What is it?" &c. &c., passed from mouth to mouth, with so much hurry and agitation, that the questioner

seldom waited for an answer; nor would he have been much wiser if he had, as the only reply that I could obtain was, "I don't know, but it must be something very serious;" in short, from all the physiognomies of the authorities, one might have supposed that the place was surrounded by some hostile army, or that the insurgents were within the walls of the town. Now all this was uncommonly alarming to us poor ignorant souls, who never dreamed what was the real cause of this menacing bustle and confusion, and at last it proved merely a freak of the Bavarian commander, who wished to ascertain how the troops would behave if a hostile force or rebellion threatened the government of Otho.

They certainly had the most extraordinary manner of conducting the affairs of the country they were deputed to govern. A person of some rank and influence was appointed as ambassador to a foreign court, for which honour he received the congratulations of all his friends, and the appointment was echoed throughout all the continental and the London papers. At the time that the nomination was made public, some of the attachés of the court to which the ambassador

elect was to be sent, assured me that he would not be received by their sovereign in any official capacity, as his principles were known to be far too liberal to suit the ideas prevalent in their country, and that an intimation to that effect would very soon be forwarded to the Greek government; and, in fact, it very shortly after arrived; and of which I was apprised through the same source as I had received the former information; but when I requested permission to state the circumstance to the gentleman who had been nominated as minister to this ultra aristocratic court, I was then told by my informers that the communication was confidential, and must not be mentioned until it was publicly promulgated, or *they* would be compromised. In vain I contended that the person in question, under the erroneous impression that his appointment could not meet with opposition from any quarter, was making the necessary preparations for his long journey, and incurring some requisite expences, and as I much esteemed him, I wished to save him such unavailable trouble: all the reply I could obtain was, "Impossible! at that period, at any rate."

Some time after this, one of the secretaries in

the foreign office informed me that he had been commissioned to write, on the part of the Greek government, to the court to which the individual alluded to had been appointed, stating that another person had been named in lieu of the one to whom objections had been made; and the second appointment was immediately approved by the fastidious government, who were so alarmed at having any one of liberal feelings enter their dominions.

Again I begged I might be permitted to mention what had taken place to the rejected party, and was allowed so to do, provided I did not name my informant. Very soon after having received this permission, the unconscious personage was talking to me of his embassy, and the country to which he was destined to proceed. I then said "Is it possible you do not know that Prince —— is permanently confirmed as the ambassador to that court?" "Certainly not!" replied he; but when I assured him of the fact, his astonishment may be well imagined; but he did not notice the circumstance to any one; and three weeks afterwards, when I asked him if he had heard from any other source, that which I had communicated to him, he declared upon his honour he had not;

and the first confirmation he received of what I had stated, was from the public papers. Thus much for Bavarian management and candour.

On arriving at Napoli, the first object that strikes the eye, is the castle of the Bourji, now used as a prison. It is in the Gulph of Napoli, and entirely surrounded by water. It has an ancient and picturesque appearance, and was of much importance during the war, affording the greatest advantages to those parties who were fortunate enough to obtain its possession. I was much struck with the Sunday promenade just outside the walls of Napoli. The Greeks were all assembled in their gayest attire, and gay indeed it was: scarlets, crimsons, sky blues, bright greens, &c., were set off to the best advantage, contrasted as they were to the pure white flowing fostenella. The sun was setting, and its last red rays were reflected from the rich gold embroidery, which shone in profusion amongst the picturesque groups: their splendidly mounted pistols, yatagans, and sabres, all added to the glitter of the animated scene. How different is a crowd of men in more civilised countries, an unseemly looking mass of black and brown! The rocks around Napoli,

particularly those forming the boundary of the public walk, are extremely grotesque in their forms; and whole families of Greeks were perched upon the different projections, as far as the eye could trace, and scattered promiscuously amongst the cliffs, in such an interesting manner, that one might indeed say, which ever way one turned, a picture was before one. Some young sparks were racing about on swift horses, galloping at full speed to and fro; and what added to the effect was a Bavarian band, which was playing martial airs in the most delightful style, and during the intervals, when they ceased, the brazen trumpets struck up their inspiring clarion.

The male Greeks take great pains in rendering their waists particularly small; in short, I never saw any young lady's more diminutive, than those I have seen amongst some of the men in Greece: from infancy they bind a sash round them so tight, that they are always kept within the most limited bounds. Many of them take great pains with their dress. One point they consider should always be attended to, in order that their costume should be in good keeping, which is, that the jacket and the leggings should always be the

F Hervé del[t]

On Stone by J W. Giles

COLOCOTRONI.

London Published by Whittaker & C[o] Ave Maria Lane

A. Ducôte's Lithog[y] 70. St Martins Lane.

same colour: this part of their drapery is often arranged with great taste; amongst the better classes, they are of velvet, embroidered with silver or gold, and about the middle of the calf bunches of silk tassels are worn, forming a sort of centre, in front of the leg, a few inches under the knee: this contributes to giving an appearance of size to the calf, and the reverse to the ancle; and they display a good deal of dandyism in the trouble they take in fitting on their leggings as tightly as they can draw them, in order to set off the symmetry of their limbs to the best advantage.

The Greeks certainly are fond of adorning themselves, and occupy their thoughts more about costume, than might be imagined. Colocotroni sent his fesse (the red cap) to Paris, to have it arranged as a Roman helmet, which he had surmounted by a great tail of horse-hair dyed blue; for epaulets, he had lions'-heads in brass, with chains of the same metal hanging from them. When thus accoutred, he might have been presented as a complete model of a captain of banditti. Salvator Rosa could nowhere have found a more fit subject for his pencil. I had his

costume some time at my apartments, whilst I was taking his picture, and what with its singularity, and the extraordinary workmanship of his arms, they altogether formed so curious an appearance, that they might have been a welcome present to any museum. Some of the Greeks wear immense mustachios;—one man I once saw tie them behind his head!

The ladies occupy themselves just as much as the men with their dress, but not with the same success; and as much as the men's waists have a deficiency according to the usual proportion, so one is led to suppose, that they had bestowed their overplus upon the women, whose bulkiness in that part of their persons is pre-eminent. They frequently paint their faces both white and red; but the most skilful management is exercised in the arrangement of their eyebrows.

Old women travel about the country, whose profession, is that of arranging ladies' faces; they stain their eyebrows, and I have been told, even their eyelashes, redden their lips, and put on a patch where it will have a great effect; but that in which they most excel is in the extracting superfluous bristles, an art particularly useful to

the Greek ladies, as they are very subject to having rather too much fur on their upper lip: these little intruders are eradicated by means of a curious contrivance made with silk thread, with which they have a method of twitching out any stray hairs. The eyebrows are always operated upon in this manner, if there be any unevenness that spoils the regularity of the arch.

They are very fond of gold or silver lace, and neglect no opportunity of introducing it about their dresses. The modern Helen had a red silk gown, trimmed with silver lace, which was certainly very handsome; but, as she had worn it at all the public assemblies and soirées, &c., which she had frequented, Mrs. G. prevailed on her to substitute another for the ball which was to be given at her house to the King. Mrs. G. also offered the services of her lady's maid, to make her a dress suitable for the occasion. Accordingly, one was completed of white muslin, in the last Parisian style, which much pleased the fair Greek; but, prior to the momentous event of her opening the ball with his Majesty, she contrived to take off the silver lace from the red gown, and stitched it on the new one, without saying anything to

Mrs. G.; who was quite surprised when she entered the ball-room, to see the queer figure the unsophisticated lady had made of her new dress.

The Greeks also paint their dead; and, as they generally carry the corpse to interment uncovered, I have frequently seen them (en passant) looking much more rosy than they ever did in life. Few nations are so attentive to all the forms of religion as the Greeks. They do not admit images in their churches, but are very fond of paintings, representing our Saviour, the apostles, saints, &c., which are such execrable daubs, and made such ludicrous figures, that it really is almost impossible to regard them without laughter.

There is one night during Easter, when every one at twelve repairs to church with a lighted taper; to witness the performance of some grand ceremony, although I was present, the crowd was such, that I could not distinguish what they were about: but the streets had a very singular appearance; numbers of people were streaming from them, all carrying lights, and giving the town the air of being illuminated.

The Greeks are much attached to their *papas*,

as they term their priests, and their surnames are often formed in such a manner, as to indicate that they are descended from priests, such as Papadopolo, means the son of a priest. Some names are still more explicit, even including the name of the parent, as Papadiamandopolo, by which is understood, the son of a priest named Diaman; but it really was a most terrific task to meet the last-named gentleman, and greet him as some persons did, with "How do you do Mr. Papadiamandopolo? how is Madame Papadiamandopolo? and all the little Papadiamandopolos?"

In addition to the above names, I knew those of Paparigopolo, Sevastopolo, Tabacopolo, d'Archiropolo, Vlacopolo; and Madame Papalexopolo had the conscience to upbraid me with my name being so difficult to pronounce, which consists but of two syllables, whilst hers contains six; in fact, a young Oxonian who was acquainted with that lady, never could manage to call her properly, and, instead of endeavouring to simplify it by abbreviating it, as one would naturally suppose, he made it worse by lengthening it, always calling her Madame Papalickapoplopolo; and, although he visited at the house, he always made the same

mess of the name, whenever he had to pronounce it. There were other names, which appeared as if they were created only for the botheration of strangers, as Rodoconachi, Kairaskachi, Theotachi, Kidonachi, Liberachi, Maniachi, &c.

I cannot pass over the name of Papariguopolo, without mentioning an instance of that gentleman's forbearance, which he displayed in seeing himself robbed of his hat, with the most stoical philosophy, and without moving a muscle. I was paying a morning visit to the Princess d'Archiropolo, and there found M. Papariguopolo, a Greek by birth, but Russian consul at Athens; the other persons present were ladies: and after conversing with them some time, I took up my hat, and was bowing my way out of the room, when some remarks addressed to me engaged my attention, and forgetting what I had already done with my disengaged hand, I caught up another hat, and was making my sortie with a hat in each hand, when the Princess very politely observed, how sorry she was she could not accommodate me with a third hat, as I might then put one on my head, and carry besides one in each hand. This remark called my attention to the

robbery I was about to commit, exciting the mirth of all present.

I need not state that the hat belonged to the patient M. Papariguopolo, who had very calmly looked on, and certainly would have suffered me to carry off his hat uninterruptedly, had it not been for the gentle hint of the Princess: he joined, however, in the laugh in a very quiet way, and took the restitution of his property with the same *sang froid* as he evinced when he saw himself about to be deprived of that to which he had a legal claim.

Having taken leave of all my Napoli friends, acquaintances, and above long-named gentry, I embarked in the Smyrna packet for Syra. The crew were Greek, and the living, to me, was starving, or little better. At the mouth of the gulph of Napoli, are the islands of Hydra and Spezzia, both equally barren looking and uninviting. We arrived at Syra on the second day, which I found a busy crowded place, the population being more numerous than that of any other town in Greece, being from twenty to thirty thousand.

Trade has greatly increased in this place, which has become a sort of commercial depôt for

Greece, her islands, and for many others in the Levant trading with her, and other nations; every flag of Europe, and some of Asia and Africa, are to be seen in this port. Neither the town, nor the interior of the island, offer any objects of interest; the most prominent feature of the former being a great many windmills, with each about a dozen sails, which is not unfrequent in the East.

The Greek, spoken in this place, has a slight difference with that which is usual in the Morea; in fact, there is some variation in most of the islands, with regard to their patois, for such it can only be called all throughout Greece. It is supposed to be spoken the best at Fanar, a suburb of Constantinople, from whence spring the most enlightened Greeks; but even with the best, there is a most essential difference between the present and the ancient Greek. Most of the words which imply luxuries of any sort are from the Italian; many others are Latin; and, in fact, every nation under whose yoke the Greeks have fallen appear to have bequeathed them some words of their language; but that which is most singular, is, that many words of the first necessity, such as

house, which in modern Greek is "speetie," should be totally different from the ancient. At this time there are many well informed men in Greece who are endeavouring to correct the present language, and assimilate it as much as possible with the ancient Greek. In some parts, they have a curious manner of transforming our Christian names; as Katherine, they call Catinka; John, Yani; and Mary, Mariyonka. Demetrius is one of their most favourite names. There are now some literary men who are rising in Greece, and whose works are published in the Greek language, which is purified as much as possible, retaining sufficient of its present corruption only as is necessary to render it comprehensible to the natives. This is the case also with all the public ordinances, police regulations, &c.

Amongst their favourite authors, is one named Souzzo, whose poetry has been much admired; he has also published a novel, and was preparing another at the time I quitted Greece, which was to be partly historical.

I called on the Russian and Sardinian consuls, whom I had known at Nappli; the former was

remarkable for his superior stature, but not for any other quality that I could ever find out. His lady was considered handsome, which I had not penetration sufficient to discover; but, if she possessed intellectual beauties, she was unkind to punish the world by keeping them to herself.

From the Sardinian consul I derived much information. He had been recently appointed, and had entered with patience and perseverance into an investigation of the conduct of his predecessors, who had always been either Greeks or Jews, terms synonymous, where overreaching or cheating is concerned. No salary had ever been allowed by the Sardinian government, yet there were always plenty of candidates for the office; the fees, perquisites, and opportunities of defrauding, affording a sufficient temptation. When a vessel put in from Genoa or any other Sardinian port, with the cargo slightly damaged, means were found for prevailing upon the captain, or supercargo, if there were one, to draw up a most exaggerated report of the extent of the damage, and the injury which had been sustained. The consul then proceeds on board, confirms the captain's account; the spoiled state of the mer-

chandise is made public, and an auction is got up, in which some of the most injured of the goods are put forward, and the whole are supposed to be much in the same state; and a friend of the consul's purchases them for a mere song.

When a wreck happens the consul is still more fortunate, as he has to take care of what remains; his first and last care ever being that nothing whatever shall revert to the right owner. Instances have been known where captains have been refractory, when certain terms have been proposed to them injurious to their employers, that they died suddenly, or disappeared mysteriously.

A most flagrant imposition had always been carried on regarding the fees in making out the captain's papers for clearance, and they, eager to depart, and not knowing the language of the country, could only remonstrate through the medium of an interpreter, who, it always so happened, was no other than the consul himself! But the most iniquitous proceedings were in cases where a Sardinian subject had died at Syra, a circumstance which did not often happen, but had occasionally occurred. The system of pillage in

the first instance, and juggling in the last, when the relatives came or sent to claim as heirs to the defunct, surpassed all that has ever yet been recorded in the annals of rascality.

The consuls of Syra are not alone in these misdoings; those in many other stations, as well as from various nations, are in the habit of practising various peccadilloes of the same nature, though not perhaps carried to such lengths, which, in fact, they could not be in more civilised countries, where men's actions are more strictly scrutinised; not that I wish to stigmatise the consuls at large. In my personal experience, I have generally found them extremely kind and hospitable; still there are very many to whom the above censure would apply; therefore, I trust, that *those alone* will be offended; and if there be none amongst them to whom it does apply, "Then none have I offended."

The great difficulty of inducing witnesses to appear against public authorities, often creates an insuperable barrier in the course of establishing proof against these official delinquents; but the newly-appointed Sardinian consul had been fortunate enough to collect witnesses, and proof sufficient to fix the guilt against his predecessors;

and he was the more determined to expose their mal-practices, from having received a hint from his government, alluding to the extreme eligibility of his appointment, which he could not discover, and even insinuated as much; not perceiving the immense advantages to be derived from being doomed to a complete exile, and without any salary to compensate for the privations he was compelled to endure. To this it was replied, that whenever a vacancy occurred, with what avidity persons came forward to obtain the appointment, which was natural, from the circumstance of those who had filled the situation having hitherto made fortunes, although it was but too evident that an honest man would not be enabled to realise sufficient to pay his lodgings.

I should have much liked to have known the result of the exposé he was preparing for his government. He was a remarkable instance of how completely a man may deceive himself, with regard to the estimation in which he is held by others. When I knew him at Napoli, I was also acquainted with a Sardinian count, who had just been liberated from a prison, wherein he had been confined for thirteen years, in consequence of his

having been induced by the Prince de Carignan (the present king of Sardinia), to espouse the cause he had undertaken, when he unfurled the standard of ultra liberalism. Every one knows how this red-hot patriot afterwards cooled, and suffered his misled followers, without an effort in their favour, either to perish on the scaffold, or to linger out their days, doomed to incarceration. He even permitted the count in question to remain two years in confinement, after he ascended the throne, merely giving him the liberty of walking on the ramparts of the fortress in which he was imprisoned, although he had formerly been his most esteemed and confidential friend. At last, yielding to the remonstrances of the count's friends, he so far ameliorated his condition as to banish him to Greece, under the surveillance of his brother-in-law, who was appointed Sardinian consul at Napoli, and there terminated his existence by blowing out his brains; the count not having waited for that event, took French leave, and proceeded to Malta.

He was a man of strong intellectual powers, which had been much improved by thirteen years intense study, during his imprisonment. The ex-

treme superiority of general information which he had acquired, had given him a sort of contempt for men whose minds were but mediocre, and but moderately instructed. Hence, for his countryman, the consul at Syra, he had a most profound contempt, who, although no Solon, was certainly a man whose capacity was about the usual stamp; yet, whenever he was alluded to by the count, he was always designated as "that simpleton!" and, as ill luck would have it, I never received a visit from one, but the other was sure to come in. This used to irritate the count to such a degree, that, as soon as he heard the consul's step, he would begin, "Here comes that superlative ass! what can bring the blockhead here every time I come?" He then would exhaust all the contemptuous epithets of which the French language was capable, in speaking of the inoffensive consul; yet, was the latter so totally unconscious of the compliments with which he was honoured, that, talking to me once when we were alone, of the count, he observed, "That is a man that it is impossible I can like, and, in fact, he is universally disliked; but he has so exalted an opinion of me, such an high idea of all I do and say, that I cannot find it in

my heart to be otherwise than polite to him." This declaration amused me so much, that I could not resist telling the count, how grateful the consul-elect felt for the high opinion he entertained of his talents, &c. The misanthrope at first smiled satirically when he heard it, but, as the venom of his contempt began to stir up, he could bear it no longer sitting, but rose and walked up and down the room, exclaiming, "*Le nigot! l'imbecile! le couyon! le bête!*" then running into the Italian language, poured forth *its* artillery of contempt; and, lastly, ended in English, by appealing to me if he were not a d—d fool, imagining that to be the utmost extreme that words could convey, to express how much he despised him!

But however *despised* was the consul, yet could he afford to *despise* others. Alluding to his exile, as he termed it, at Syra, he observed that there was no society there for an educated man, with the exception of the English consul and his family, remarking, that, as to the Russian consul and his wife (to whom I have before adverted), the husband could only talk of shooting, and the wife of nothing.

Prior to the Sardinian consul having been sta-

tioned at Syra, he had been an attaché at Lisbon, and his reminiscences of the gaiety of that court were too fresh to bear a comparison with the barren dulness of Syra, which certainly possesses all the evils of a seaport, and few of its advantages. The heat was excessive, and the thirst in proportion, and which assailed me to a tremendous degree, as my only amusement, *exercise*, promoted it, whilst I kept walking about and exploring every corner of the place; but could find no shade whatever. However, an antidote to my suffering was everywhere found, as most delicious water is sold in the streets, at the rate of a fifth of a farthing a glass.

But it was far easier to obtain that which was pure and good to drink, than to find any thing fit to eat: the restaurateurs, eating-houses, or rather starving-houses, are the most execrable I ever met with, except at Napoli, and there I was so disgusted with them, that at last I went without dinner so long, that, at length, I began to think dining was but a bad habit. After having alternately tried all the establishments that undertook to calm the appetite, I was turned with nausea from the last, by the brutality of the Greek

waiter. Having brought me a slice of meat which looked very uninviting, I observed that it was neither cold nor hot, upon which the wretch took it up in his hand, and squeezed it until the juice oozed out from between his fingers, asking me, whether I should like it warmed up again? I dashed down the money, made my exit in a rage, and never again entered those mansions of filth.

In another of these dens of infamous cookery, they gave me some meat of a description which I certainly never before tasted. I appealed to Mr. Finlay, of Athens, who was with me, who declared it was jackass, and vowed it was delicious, though I found it quite the reverse. The charge was certainly very reasonable, being only two drachms, not quite eighteen pence of English money.

The Bavarian government introduced an entire new coinage, all bearing the profile of Otho. The drachms much resembled a franc, and were equal to one hundred paras, a very small copper coin, of the value of one-third of a farthing. There are also half and quarter drachms; the latter is the smallest silver coin, but all very neatly executed. They have besides five drachm pieces, which are called Othos. Their golden coinage consists of ten and

twenty drachms; and there were some few forty and five drachm pieces, but they were not general.

Whilst I was in Greece, Spanish dollars were the most frequent coin, known by the name of collonades or talaris, and passing for six drachms. It is a singular circumstance that this should be the case throughout the East, even to the Indies. How such immense quantities of Spanish money should have found its way almost exclusively into all eastern Europe, and the major part of Asia, and great part of Africa, I never met with any one that could give a satisfactory explanation; as the Spanish have ever had much less commerce with the East than either England, France, Russia, and other powers, who have held a constant communication with the Oriental nations.

'During my passage from Napoli to Syra, and in my wanderings over the latter place, I had a most curious companion. He was a Bavarian, and one of the secretaries to La Haute Regence, as they styled it. His name was such an abominable one, that I never could remember it, nor ever meet with any one else that could. He was an accomplished man, and a profound musician; but

all his thoughts and cares appeared concentrated in an anxiety to subdue his appetite. I had entered the ship late at night, and, retiring to rest, did not see this gormandizing Apollo until the next morning, when he introduced himself to me; and, after a few minutes' conversation, he asked me if I had observed any symptoms, which might indicate any probability of the steward's giving us our coffee. On my answering rather indifferently, that I had not noticed, he very gravely said, "But do not you think it a subject on which we ought immediately to interest ourselves?" Having answered him, by stating that I was in no hurry, he could endure his suspense no longer, but instantly instituted an inquiry: then quickly returning, with an air of satisfaction, announced the approach of the desired beverage, which having swallowed with all the accompaniments he could lay his hand upon, he went away and was quiet, but soon came back, and, after a few observations, returned to the charge, by wishing to know if I had remarked any preparations for cooking the dinner! On my replying in the negative, he appeared very uneasy, and I saw that something was labouring in his mind, and, at last,

it broke forth. Approaching me with a very serious air, he asked me if I did not think that it would be better, as a measure of precaution, to take some substantial refreshment, in case the dinner should happen to be an hour later than we expected. In fact, no sooner was a repast over than he began his speculations on the next.

The day we went on shore at Syra, he emptied his pockets of all kinds of incumbrances; the reason was soon explained: I saw him looking right and left with a searching air; at last, the great desideratum of his wishes appeared in a cake-shop, from which he so replenished his pockets, that they stuck out so prominently, as to resemble an ass's panniers; but, fearing that I should be astounded, he said, by way of explanation, that he only purchased a stock of provisions, as a measure of precaution, as we were going in the country, and there was no saying at what hour we might dine. Thus provided, he accompanied me, and whilst I sketched, he sat by me, cramming all the time, and, after a few moral reflections, he observed, how infinitely more confined were my pleasures than his; for that I could only eat three

or at most four times a day, whilst he could eat all day!

But it was at Smyrna that I had the most comic proofs of his voracious appetite. While sitting at breakfast one morning at the inn where I was staying, he came in, and I invited him to partake, but he declined, saying he was engaged to a friend, who that morning gave a *dejeuné a la fourchette* to a number of his acquaintances, and he was sure it would be more substantial than many dinners. However, he soon changed his mind, and said he would take some bread: a large loaf stood on the table which might have had two or three slices cut from it; he displayed his prowess to such effect in reducing its dimensions, that I could not forbear smiling, which he perceiving, laughed heartily, and observed that, as he had got on so famously, he thought he had better finish the loaf, as it was not worth while leaving any! He therefore proceeded in his work of demolition, until his object was accomplished; and he departed in order to keep his engagement. But the most amusing circumstance was when the waiter entered, who, glancing at the space which the loaf

had so lately occupied, appeared to wonder what could have become of it, and looking at me with an air of inquiry, I stated the truth, that the gentleman who had just gone out had eaten it. He laughed incredulously: I verily believe he always thought that I had pitched it out of window, into the sea.

The next day I found, on comparing notes, my gastronomical companion and myself were invited to dine at the same house, that of the Dutch consul; and when we there met he took me on one side, and asked me if I did not think he had acted very prudently, in having already eaten a hearty dinner, "because," added he, "one cannot in company eat as much as one would wish." His appetite, notwithstanding, retained its wonted force; for when I afterwards let some of the party into the secret, as to the precaution he had taken, they declared that they thought, from the manner in which he devoured every thing, he had not dined for a month. In the evening he regaled us with some music, and played on the pianoforte in the most masterly style. It is singular that great musicians should so often have been great eaters, as Handel, Dussek, and many others.

After three days I had enough, and something too much of Syra, which, like many of the Greek islands, presents a barren, rocky, uninteresting aspect. I then embarked for Smyrna on board the same filthy packet in which I had arrived at Syra, and thus bid adieu to Greece. Yet, ere I quite bid adieu to the subject, I must anticipate the objections which will be made to the general character which I have given of the Greeks, as I am well aware on what false grounds the majority of travellers form their judgments of the nations through which they pass, and of the erroneous opinions which they conceive of the natives. In proof of this I shall cite an instance which came under my own observation.

I once met at Napoli with a reverend gentleman, who was a sort of regular young bear-leader, and had three young cubs with him under his charge at the time I encountered him; and these were his remarks:—"How this country is misrepresented!—they would persuade us that there are bands of robbers in all directions, and that it is impossible to travel through the country without an army; and we have been from one end of Greece to the other, amongst the mountains, and reputed

dangerous places, without ever having been robbed or molested; and I really think we could not have done the same thing in England."

Here the gentleman was interrupted by one of the youths observing that the Greeks had stolen a pair of candlesticks, and some other trifle, as soon as their own servants, whom they had brought with them from civilized Europe, had turned their backs for an instant. "Oh, yes," said the first speaker, "that is very true; but that might have happened in England; and then," continued he, "it is said that the Greeks are very dirty; now we certainly have not seen any proofs of it." "Did you ever enter any of their houses?" demanded a gentleman who was present. "Only two," replied the acute observer, "as we had our tents; but I admit that those habitations whose interiors we did see were very dirty."

Notwithstanding this last proof of the reverend gentleman's candour, he returned to his first text, that the Greeks were very clean and honest. The party could certainly have very little fear of being robbed: there were four of them, and each had their servant, and in addition a regular cook and a guide; besides which, four or five men ac-

companied them, of whom they hired the horses; so that they were a little army in themselves. At the period they were in Greece, a great check had been given to a marauding system which had prevailed in the country, and had given rise to many robberies and other outrages, until the government had found it absolutely necessary to have recourse to the most decisive measures, for insuring the safety of travellers, and which they had just effected, prior to the arrival of the gentlemen alluded to.

At the time I quitted Greece, highway robbery was by no means prevalent, but since I left, there have been insurrections in various provinces, and under those circumstances some danger is always incurred, in passing through the disaffected parts of the country; as the traveller is frequently assailed and plundered by those who have taken up arms, pretending to enrol themselves under patriot banners, but, in effect, to avail themselves of that pretext to pillage, and sometimes murder the weak and unguarded.

Greece has lately found an advocate in a gentleman who passed a few weeks in the country, and who has given the public the benefit of his re-

marks, and observes that it has been the fashion lately to decry the Greeks in a most merciless manner, but that it was his opinion that there was as great a proportion of virtue and morality in Greece as in other countries. When one first enters amongst a people, it is very natural to wish to think well of them, and that, I have no doubt, was his case; but, had he staid months, instead of weeks, I think he would have found cause to change his opinion.

During the time I was in Greece, a most extraordinary outrage was committed, which created a great sensation. A lady and gentleman, accompanied by their man servant, took a small boat to carry them to some spot which was not very distant. The little bark to which they committed themselves belonged to a captain, who, with his man, managed his vessel without further assistance. On their way they had occasion to touch at a small island; and the captain and his man going on shore, the latter proposed to the former to murder the gentleman and his servant, by which means they could possess themselves of the property the strangers had with them, as also the person of the lady. The captain rejected

his proposition indignantly, whereupon he was instantly stabbed by the sanguinany fellow, who had endeavoured to tempt his master to commit the foulest of crimes. The wretch then went coolly to the boat, forming some pretext to induce the servant to come on shore; and when he had drawn him into the island, out of sight of the other passengers, he murdered him, as he had done the captain.

Once more returning to the boat, the assassin plunged the fatal knife into the back of the gentleman, who fell and expired at the feet of his wife, who fainted, and was carried by the murderer to a hut where he also deposited the property.

The unfortunate lady, when she recovered, found herself in the arms of him who had so recently killed her husband in her presence. For some days she was obliged to yield to the brutal force of him whose hand had widowed her. Resistance was vain; her feebleness could nought effect against the assassin's strength; therefore was she forced to submit to all his desires, still cherishing the hope that some fortunate circumstance might arise that might lead to her deliverance.

At length her hated companion was obliged sometimes to quit her for a short period: during one of these intervals she saw a vessel passing, to which she made signals, and had the satisfaction of seeing them answered, and soon after, to her inexpressible delight, she saw the vessel tack and make for the island. Finally she was delivered from the grasp of her monster, and he was taken. I saw him in the hands of justice, walk across the Place Platune at Napoli, on his way to trial. He was a remarkably fine looking man, much taller than the Greeks generally are, having also a dignified style of countenance and demeanor, and there was something dauntless in his air, as, with long but quick steps, he strode along amidst the throng of spectators who were assembled to look at him.

As might be expected he was condemned, and was the first man guillotined in Greece. I really believe that seven eighths of the population of Napoli were collected to see him executed. I passed through the crowd, a few minutes prior to the culprit's being brought forth, and it appeared to me that all the higher, middle, and lower classes of the male inhabitants of the country, for.

some miles round, were congregated together. The guilty wretch showed much firmness at the last hour; harangued the people in a manner which astonished his auditors, exhorting them to take warning by him, in language that appeared superior to his class; acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and had already made a detailed confession of the extent of his crime.

Many persons, at different periods, have been robbed, and some murdered, in those caïques, or small boats, when they have engaged them for proceeding to any considerable distance.

CHAPTER XI.

SMYRNA—ARQUÉE'S—POPULATION OF THE CITY—BOURNABAT—ITS DELIGHTFUL RESIDENCES—ITS BEAUTIFUL GARDENS—ITS GAY PARTIES—TURKISH AND ARMENIAN QUARTER—ANTIQUE REMAINS—PLEASING ASSOCIATIONS—BORJA—AN ARABIAN CAMP—ASSES OF SMYRNA—FLOORING AN ENGLISHMAN—STRANGE DISTINCTIONS—UNTAUGHT LADIES—CHARACTERS OF THE LEVANTERS—THE CASIN—TROUBLESOME MIDSHIPMEN—THEIR COMICAL PRANKS—DISTURBED OLD GENTLEMAN—AN AWFUL PERSONAGE—ENFORCES HIS AUTHORITY—A HOAX—CASIN BALLS—ONE GIVEN BY FRENCH OFFICERS—DIFFICULTY TO KEEP ORDER—THREATENED DUEL—DEVOTION TO PLAY—GREEK CASIN—ILLIBERAL EXCLUSION FROM SOCIETY—TRADE OF CARD PLAYING—AN ELOPEMENT—THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

We passed by the isle of Scio, still fresh, I have no doubt, in my reader's memory, on account of the dreadful massacre there committed by the Turks, upon the Greeks, when they invaded that unfortunate island. It is the most fertile and cheerful looking of any that I saw in the Archipelago, and is famed for producing the gum mastic, so constantly in use by the ladies through-

out the East, both natives and Franks, who masticate it almost the whole day. We then coasted along the shores of Anatolia, which are remarkably fertile and picturesque. On the third day we descried the castle of Smyrna, the scenery increasing in richness, and at length we entered the magnificent bay of Smyrna.

On arriving at this city most European strangers go to Madame Moracini's; but the accounts I heard of that lady's prowess, rather scared me from the desire of domesticating myself at her boarding-house, she having left the visible impressions of her claws upon the face of the son of the great Israelite capitalist, who certainly, from all I ever saw of him, is a most inoffensive young man. She also pitched the trunks and effects of Lord P—— out of window, who always has been known for the mildest of the mild; and I, being of a very pacific turn, and having a peculiar objection to female belligerents, took up my quarters with M. Arquée, who is just what an innkeeper should be, quiet, civil, obliging, and not extortionate in his charges; and one is about as comfortable there as one can expect to be in Turkey, though my first night was miserable;

having neglected to unfurl my musquitiere, I was tormented to the most torturing degree by the musquitoes. In my opinion they are one of the scourges of Smyrna. If one would read, write, or occupy oneself in any manner during the evening it is necessary to wear gloves, if one does not wish to have one's hands covered with red and white blisters; and then it is requisite to be constantly on the *qui vive* to protect the face.

Smyrna is a large city, and extremely populous: the number of inhabitants is generally admitted to be about 150,000. It is divided into four quarters; thus distinguished, the Frank, Turk, Jew, and Armenian; besides which is an immense number of Greeks, whose residences are mixed in a great measure amongst those of the Franks. The aristocracy of the society consists of the consuls and the merchants, who live in a generous and hospitable manner; perhaps rather too much so for the extent of their incomes, as there are none who possess such as would be called large fortunes in the great commercial towns in Europe.

There are many interesting spots round Smyrna; and I never was struck with any village as much as I was with that of Bournabat, about eight

miles from the city. Having just come from Greece, where I never saw a tree, except one just outside the gates of Napoli, which I used to go and look at almost every evening, I was so delighted to arrive at a spot which was one entire bower, composed of immensely high trees; here and there a few stately cypresses towering above the rest. Amongst this forest of various shrubs, entwining round or shrouding the more lofty timber, the villas of the merchants, both right and left, show their trellissed balconies, and cheerful white walls. Most of them are extremely pretty, and come in very good taste. The gardens are beautiful, and all joining to each other, and possessing the choicest plants of the East, as well as those of Europe, combine to form one of the richest scenes I ever witnessed. Bournabat has perhaps not less than from fifty to sixty of these delightful residences. Some may be termed elegant mansions, others merely tasteful cottages, but all present to the view such cool shaded retreats, as charm the stranger in these oppressive climes.

A large gateway generally forms the entrance to the gardens of these dwellings, having on each side of it stone seats, capable of containing, per-

haps, a dozen persons; and here the family sit at sunset regularly every evening, if the weather admit. I was much struck with this custom the first time I visited the village, as, in riding through its whole range, I saw on either side, at every gate, groups of well dressed people, of which the greater proportion were females, and who greeted us as we passed, as Mr. Whithall, an English merchant, to whose house I was proceeding, was known to all; therefore salutations of recognition were exchanged with every family from each side of the road, as we continued our course towards our destination.

From the balconies of some of these agreeable country seats, the view is most exquisite: beneath you lies the garden, consisting of plants of the most varied and richest foliage that fancy could have flung together; some they have whose leaves were of the deepest crimson, which contrasts beautifully with the pale yellow and light green, which twine themselves together, and climb up the trellisses which form a sort of awning round the lower parts of the mansion; masses of beds of flowers display a bright variegated carpet, which compose a groundwork, from which rise, some-

what higher, the rich and spreading vine, with its purple clustering treasures, which in big profusion are seen reeling to the earth; then the dark green orange and lemon trees, with their bright fruit, looking like spots of sunshine, glittering amongst the shade; above, in broad clumps, the timber trees extend their round masses, occasionally broken by the dark melancholy cypress, rearing their pyramidic heads sometimes in the distance, even to the clouds. Smyrna appears sufficiently obscured to leave only its beauties distinctly visible; its mosques and minarets, rising from the mass of roofs, *alone* arresting the admirer's eye; whilst beyond its noble bay presents her wide silver sheet, bounded by the wild barren mountains, whose mantling brows majestically uprear their summits, and shut the scene. Thus you have for your foreground the richest and gayest fertility that nature and art can bring together, whilst your extreme distance, though arid and naked, presents a grand romantic outline, relieving boldly from the bright horizon.

At nightfall, the different groups retire within their gates, to their tea and supper, which they are in the habit of taking together as one meal; as

many introduce hot joints, poultry, game, fruit, &c. (and ultimately wine, if any one choose it), at the same time that they take their tea. This generally ends about nine. Then the visiting and parties begin; and I verily believe that not one family in Bournabat ever remain at home alone, unless confined there by illness: either they receive and have a party at home, or they go to one elsewhere, at some of their neighbours'. The amusements are always the same, consisting of ecarté, at which every one bets. The ladies seldom take the cards, but display great avidity in betting, with the exception of the young unmarried girls, who do not enter into it. Whist is sometimes introduced; and although the fortunes are so small in this part of the world, yet I have frequently known a person to win or lose twenty pounds in an evening, even at these little parties. About twelve they mostly break up. It is pleasing then to stroll about Bournabat, and see the various groups coming from the different *soirées*, particularly of a moonlight night: the light flowing drapery of the females has a pretty effect, floating about the green lanes, and dark sylvan shades, formed by the numerous groves of Bournabat; it gratifies to hear

their mirthful voices, as they pass in converse, or catch a few wild notes, carolled in playful carelessness; or listen to the chords which just meet the ear from some distant guitar; or hear the sprightly laugh; all uniting to tell a tale of cheerfulness and merriment. Parties such as these appear at every turn and corner about midnight, or until one, when the village is left to that repose which its thick and lofty bowers seem so peculiarly to invite.

The tree which is most cultivated here is the ungrafted mulberry: it grows rapidly, reaches a fair height, and forms a delightful shade. There are other parts of Bournabat, inhabited by the Turks, some Jews, and a few Armenians, which are quite in the Eastern style. There is a sort of bazaar, and vines so trained that they cross the streets, and you walk under them, having a canopy of bunches of grapes above you. The inmates of the various houses, or shops, sit smoking before their doors at sunset, forming the most grotesque pictures; and in different parts one finds some interesting little bits of ruins, most highly picturesque. In fact, I doubt if there can anywhere be found a village capable of affording

more agreeable impressions to the observing stranger.

The road to Smyrna I also found replete with objects which must excite the attention of every traveller who possesses an inquiring mind. Many of the fields are divided by walls, formed of stones laid one upon another; and amongst them I frequently found fragments of fluted marble columns, of the most exquisite workmanship, having no doubt belonged to some buildings of antiquity, which must have been of the highest order; but I could obtain no particulars; or even conjectures, as to what they had belonged; nor, indeed, could I find any one in the slightest degree interested in the subject.

The ancient history of this part of the country is rather obscure. Strabo is the author who has afforded the most information regarding this neighbourhood. Polycarp, we are informed, suffered martyrdom near Smyrna; and it is pretended that the father of Peter the Apostle was bishop of Smyrna. This, if true, proves that prelates, in those days, must have been much more humble than those of the present time, who certainly never bring up their sons to be fishermen. Not

very distant is a spot called Homer's Grotto, where the credulous are persuaded he wrote his poem of the Siege of Troy.

At a short distance from Bournabat, on the road to Smyrna, I passed by some fine groves of olives, which were composed of the largest trees I had yet seen of that description, and really had a very picturesque appearance. I then rode between myrtle hedges, and met numbers of camels; in fact, all around me appeared to savour of the East, ever to me delightful, as being connected with associations which cheered my earliest years. Approaching a well, I paused to view a handsome Greek girl, who was standing with a pitcher, just the same in form as always given in illustrations of the Bible. Some Turks, with their camels, were also seeking water, and were talking with her. Who is there that would not have thought of Rebecca? So it was at times I was reminded of the Scriptures, and at others of the Arabian Nights. In fact, it is in Oriental customs and manners alone that we now find some vestige of romance.

I love to see their orange groves, their cool fountains, their myrtle bowers; even their women,

with their long white veils, have an air of mystery which interests. Their cemeteries, beneath the shades of the tall and sombre cyprus; the poetic costume of the men; their fine features; their turbaned heads; their long strings of camels; and even the camel-drivers' rude madrigal, has charms for me. As I proceeded further, I came to some lakes, or rather ponds, called Diana's baths. Here they pretend the chaste goddess and her nymphs were wont to bathe.

There is another very pleasant village about four miles from Smyrna, called Borja, possessing a number of delightful little retreats; some of which reminded me of Goldsmith's description of the Vicar of Wakefield's dwelling—so rural, so simple: the approaches to some of them have quite the appearance as if you were entering a bower; and the fashion of the houses have a something original about them that partakes not of the stiffness so general with our habitations in more civilized nations. Here, also, the custom exists of the parents, with their children, visitors, or other inmates of their family, even to the servants, all sitting, after sunset, before the doors of their houses. There is something primitive and patri-

archal about this that I like; it promotes sociality, neighbours are constantly brought in contact, and the whole village, by this means, are continually communicating together; and he who seeks society has only to take a stroll through the hamlet, and form one of that circle which most takes his fancy, as all here are known to each other.

In returning from this village to Smyrna, I was much amused by seeing an Arabian camp. The women had a sad, skinny, squalid appearance; the tents were arranged in a circle, forming an area, in which the children were playing.

Borja, although extremely pretty, is not on so high a scale as Bournabat; the former being composed of houses of an humbler class, very picturesque, but not to compare to the elegant mansions of the latter, many of which are adorned by handsome porticos, formed by fine stone columns, and having quite the air of Italian villas.

The mode of conveyance between Smyrna and the adjacent villages is almost exclusively by asses. Some few of the merchants keep a horse, but much oftener are they seen upon an ass; and I never remember seeing a lady on horseback whilst I remained in the country. It certainly

must be admitted that the asses at Smyrna are superior to any I have ever seen in Europe; and the price bears an adequate proportion. A fine ass will sometimes cost as much as a thousand piastres (ten pounds) and will not be apt to stumble; but, with the generality of them, you must make up your mind to a fall once in about every seven or eight times that you mount them; and numerous are the accidents occasioned by such falls. I have known many ladies who have had either an arm, a leg, or some ribs broken, and yet mount again and gallop away as boldly as ever, as soon as they have been cured and allowed to take the air. Until one is, in some degree, accustomed to them, it is certainly very difficult to keep one's seat; as the saddle is arranged for men, being often very wide, square, and flat, and the girths consequently can never be drawn very tight, the saddle projecting too far beyond the rotundity of the animal.

I remember an English gentleman, on being cautioned to take care that he kept his seat (as he had no sooner mounted his ass than he began to swing about in a very unsteady manner), replied, that he had rode all manner of horses without

coming to the ground, and that it was not an ass that was going to throw him. He had about eight miles to go, and absolutely contrived to fall from his ass seven times in the course of his journey. Some might suppose that he had been making too free with the juice of the grape; yet that was not the case. But the saddle being loose, every time he swayed too much to the right or left, it turned under him, and down came the rider, who, being an animated man, was always forgetting, twisting about, and losing his equilibrium. As I had no penchant for rolling in the mud or dust, I took some pains to keep my ass on his legs, and to preserve a well regulated balance, and was fortunate enough to escape the degradation of having ever been brought to the ground by an ass.

Few places, I should think, could vie with Smyrna for the number of large families; and as to the young marriageable ladies amongst the Frank society, they might form a little army. Taking the first and second classes, they enumerate four hundred; of which it is calculated that there are eighty-four appertaining to the first class, which I understand is a very correct estimation,

according to the Smyrna statistics: whilst, amongst the young men of the privileged class, there are but six in a situation to marry. So much for the hopes of the young ladies in this overstocked city; and, in ten years hence, they will probably have as fine a possé of old maids (or at least of *single ladies*) as any town could desire, that commodity being rather at a discount already in the Smyrna market, owing to the great glut. In fact, at almost all the houses at which I visited I found an elderly unmarried lady.

Their line of demarcation for the separation of the classes is a subject that I never could understand; and, indeed, I have heard it remarked that it would require a residence of seven years thoroughly to understand it. You will meet a man, well educated, of gentlemanly manners, having a handsome house and establishment, a good fortune, and living generously and hospitably; then why, it will be asked, is he not in the first class? The answer is, because he is an Armenian, or he is a Greek, or a person of the country. Thus, at Smyrna, it is the nation that renders a man otherwise than a gentleman. Some instances exist, amongst the first class, of females who cannot read,

in fact, have never learnt their letters; and amongst this boasted first class, intended to be so aristocratically select, are women who make neckcloths, shirts, stocks, &c.; but they are either descended from Europeans, or are so by birth.

I was astonished when I heard how extremely illiterate were some of the ladies, whom I met in what was considered the first society: in fact, one whom I had particularly remarked as possessing the most pleasing person and agreeable manners, I was informed could not read or write in any language, although she spoke fluently Greek, French, and Italian. There were many females under the same circumstances, who would not have condescended to have associated with any one of the second class, who might be infinitely better informed. The young persons are all educated, at least to the degree of reading and writing. They have an extraordinary tact for learning languages: the first they learn is Greek; as all the servants are so, they naturally acquire that tongue first that is spoken by their nurses; then French, being the language of society, is what they acquire the next; Italian soon follows, and some learn the Turkish; but it appears singular that the English,

French, Germans, &c., who have established themselves at Smyrna, and married ladies of the place, frequently could not converse with their children, who, until a certain age, could only express themselves in Greek.

Respecting the Frank inhabitants, it has been observed that it matters little what nation a man comes from, as a few years' residence in Smyrna will make any one a regular Levanter, perhaps the term may not be perfectly comprehended by all my readers; I will, therefore, endeavour to give some idea of it, although it is very difficult to render it in all its meanings, as understood by those who have travelled or sojourned much in the Levant. A regular Levanter is supposed to speak several languages badly, and none well. The Greek spoken at Smyrna is execrable; and the little that a foreigner there acquires is a grade worse. The Levanter is ever considered so quickly alive to his interest, that, if he can take you in, he never will resist the opportunity, either in making a bargain, getting off from it, or taking advantage of the difference of the value of money, which often will vary several times in the course of the day. His answers are generally evasive: he fears to give

you a direct one, lest he might in any shape compromise his interest; yet he is indolent, compared with European merchants, which arises from his adopting Eastern habits, which, after a time, he finds infectious; and as he becomes ostentatious, he spends much, and saves little. Hence so few large fortunes amongst the foreign commercial men in this part of the world; but it heeds little what strangers say of the Smyrniots, when they are so severe upon themselves, that it would not be easy for travellers to exceed the condemnation they pronounce on their fellow townsmen.

I have often observed, that, as so many persons are totally ruined by the frequent fires at Smyrna, I wondered that they had not any fire insurance offices, as they had three for losses in shipping. They invariably made me the same answer, that, if there were any means of insuring against fire at Smyrna, every man would set his house on fire!

They have an establishment which they call Casin, or, as the Italians term it, Casino, and which might be translated into English as a club-house, although that does not describe it exactly: it is supported by a subscription of the principal mer-

chants; and any stranger arriving at Smyrna, well recommended, is always introduced at the Casin, and as soon as he enters he is presented with coffee. Several rooms are always open; and there are two billiard-tables, at which the visitor may take his turn to play equally with the subscriber. Whist and ecarté are constantly going forward throughout the whole evening, and every evening (except during the summer), Sundays included. Newspapers are taken, and several sets of chessmen are kept; so that there are a variety of amusements to attract the strangers, who, perhaps, not knowing any families with whom to pass the evenings, find a delightful resource in the Casin.

Few institutions are conducted on so liberal a footing, free admittance being accorded to all officers of every nation; but the conductors are rather tenacious with respect to a certain degree of etiquette regarding costume. In those warm climates it is agreeable to take off one's coat when playing billiards, but it is not deemed sufficiently respectful to the Casin, therefore it is not permitted; and in the summer the gentlemen are in the habit of wearing short linen or cotton jackets,

or rather loose waistcoats, even at the evening parties; and many persons endeavoured to do the same at the Casin, but it was not allowed. Many an attempt was made, and many a white jacket was turned away at the door.

I was informed by Mr. M——, an old English merchant, who was termed the father of the Casin, and who thought it impossible to treat the establishment with too profound a veneration, that the most troublesome gentry they had to deal with in enforcing the due respect which they exacted for the Casin, were the English midshipmen, who were inclined to rebel against all rules, whether of etiquette, costume, or, in fact, anything that subjected them to the slightest control; and one evening that I was poring over the newspapers, Mr. M—— very gravely came up to me, and begged I would step with him, and he would show me a proof of what he had stated. Accordingly, I accompanied him to another room, where he pointed out to me one young spark, who was certainly in a most piteous plight. All the lower part of his trowsers were one mass of mud, and there was a hole in them which displayed his bare calf, from his stocking either having a similar

misfortune, or that he had none on, or that it had fallen down to his ancles. Be that as it may, to the old gentleman's appeal, which he addressed to me, of whether any one in that condition ought to be admitted into saloons which were opened for the reception of gentlemen, I certainly felt compelled to reply in the negative, as he evidently did appear as if he had been dancing in some filthy ditch.

In some instances the directors had been under the necessity of resorting to severer measures with the young midshipmen, who would sometimes lie on the rich velvet sofas, putting up their muddy boots upon them; and as I have been informed, but did not witness, have scrambled upon the billiard-tables, and have jumped thereon, with other acts of mischief; which at last induced the stewards to write to the commanders, requesting they would remonstrate with these youths on the impropriety of their conduct; or that they should be compelled to rescind their regulation, which admitted *all* officers to the Casin, as far as regarded the English nation.

They received for their answer, that, as long as those who were placed under their command be-

haved properly on board their ships, and punctually performed the duties required of them, they could not take cognizance of every trifling irregularity that they might be accused of while on shore; and that with respect to the rules, regulations, &c., the proprietors might think proper to make regarding their Casin, they, the directors, must, of course, be the best judges.

The stewards, therefore, finding that this means of redress was unavailable, resolved to have recourse to more summary measures; and a circumstance occurring soon after, in which the young men had surpassed themselves in some indecorum, force was applied on the part of the Casinists, and two of these young springals were flung down stairs, and one of them rather scathed by the fall. But these circumstances all happened before my arrival at Smyrna. What little affairs of the kind I witnessed were not very serious, as, on the contrary, they rather amused me than otherwise.

One night, a long young English midshipman had laid himself very comfortably on the crimson velvet, his whole length just taking the measure of the sofa, and, as might have been expected, soon fell fast asleep, when his snoring became so

outrageously loud, that he disturbed four gentlemen who were engaged over a most solemn game of whist.

At last one began, "It is really very disagreeable that our amusement cannot proceed quietly, but that one must be subjected to the annoyance of the snorting of yon huge animal!" "He must be awakened," said a second. "Ah, that is right," returned the first, "so do;" "wake him by all means, partner." "No," resumed the second; "as *you* were the first to complain, so I think it incumbent upon you to relieve us of this nuisance." Upon this the first old gentleman turned towards the sonorous mass of flesh, as if with the intention of following his partner's advice, but I believe he thought the young officer was too big, as, after a little hesitation, he came to the decision, that the best person to proceed actively in the affair, was one of the commissaires (or, as we should say, stewards). Accordingly, that one who was always present advanced; and, willing to display a little authority, and being a most awful looking personage, six feet three at least, office sat well upon him, and he readily undertook to awaken the delinquent to reason and himself, which he did; at the

same time, as he spoke some English, addressing the drowsy subject with the question of, "Why are you *sleeping here?*" "Why?" replied the other, "why, because I was sleepy, to be sure!" "But this is not the proper place to *sleep* in." "Oh, as to that," returned the midshipman, "I slept very well, thank ye:" then rubbing his eyes, looked up at the steward with a familiar air, and called out, "I say, what's o'clock?" The dignified gentleman did not deign a reply, but with a haughty air showed his elegant repeater. "Oh," said the seaman, "past ten;" adding, with a sociable tone of voice, "then I think I had better be off;" and at the same time off he toddled. But the extreme carelessness with which he received the reproof from the high and mighty steward, was so comic, that even the old gentlemen could not refrain from laughing; and I made no attempt to conceal my mirth.

Another instance I once witnessed, of breach of respect to the Casin, and which I found equally amusing. The hero was again an English midshipman, who, I imagine, had been taking a walk in the country, where he had cut a stick; and having seated himself, set to work with a knife,

shaving his shelala into a respectable form, until at length the chips began to have a very unsightly appearance on the beautiful Turkey carpet; whereupon the censor approached him, asking, if he thought that he was in a fitting place to do work of that kind? "I don't see why it is not as good as any other," said the sea-cub. "And pray," demanded his interrogator, "do you expect a servant to come and clear away all that litter after *you?*" "Oh, not at all," replied the youth; "it is not in my way." "No, perhaps not," rejoined the steward; "but it may be in the way of other people." "Ah," replied the tar, with a smile of irresistible good humour, "but that's nothing to me!" The steward, at length provoked at the imperturbable indifference of the young incorrigible, said, in a serious tone, "You cannot continue that work here, Sir. If you choose to go down stairs in the smoking room, you may do as you please." "Any where to oblige you," said the son of Neptune, walking off with his knife and stick, whistling as he went.

But the most comic event that ever was recorded in the annals of the Casin was brought about by the waggery of a young Maltese, who

introduced a youth, which he had no right to do, not being a subscriber; but, on his stating in a whisper, that it was an English duke, travelling incognito, whom he wished to view the interior of the Casin, the stranger was received in the most distinguished manner. The proud and pompous steward doffed his beaver with all possible respect, and it is even said, that the great ball room, which was seldom opened, except on extraordinary occasions, was lighted, that it might appear to the young duke to the greatest advantage; and every attention that could be lavished on any one was conferred on the illustrious stranger.

Two days after this, the son of the English vice-consul had occasion to go on board a ship bound for England, and there found the reputed young duke, and remarked how sorry he felt to observe that they were so soon losing his Grace. The youth, perhaps not noticing the last expression, very innocently said, "Why, Sir, Mr. Burton says, there is nothing for me to do here, and I had better quit." "But how is it," demanded the inquirer, "that Mr. Burton can have so much influence over your actions?" "Why, he says it is not worth while for me to be remaining here,

only just to brush his clothes and shoes." The secret now was out: the stranger, who had been introduced as a young English duke at the Casin, was no other than the servant of a gentleman named Burton, who was on his travels, and passing some time at Smyrna.

The steward who was thus taken in would not suffer this anecdote to be mentioned in his presence, nor could many of the proprietors of the Casin bear to hear of it, though it was from one of them I derived my information, and had it confirmed by several others.

But, notwithstanding all jokes or hoaxes that may have been played upon it, there are few establishments in Europe which so merit the stranger's praise; and none can have more reason to speak well of it than myself, having frequented it for more than six months as a visitor, and ever having met with the greatest attention and politeness from the stewards and subscribers.

They get up the balls at the Casin on a most splendid scale; the large room appropriated to that purpose is of the handsomest description, and the other apartments being also opened for the accommodation of the company, a thousand

persons might participate in the amusements of the evening, without being subjected to inconvenience for the want of space; and if the rooms be required by any individuals, wishing to give the Smyrniots a ball, by application to any of the subscribers, on reference to the stewards and a certain number of the members, it is generally granted.

During my sojourn at Smyrna, the French officers of the ships of war on the station decided on giving a ball: the Casin was asked, and granted; and certainly every thing was arranged in the most sumptuous manner, and provisions laid in with no sparing hand; but no sooner was it decided that there were to be sixty turkeys, with a proportionate number of hams, fowls, ducks, &c., than it was known and echoed through all the Frank quarter of Smyrna, and the poor officers were assailed by every one they met for tickets; and many who could not meet with them on shore, took boat, and went off to their ships, rightly judging that they were sure there to find some of the gentlemen, from whom by dint of solicitation they could obtain tickets. The consequence was many persons procured entrance,

who had never before gained admittance to the balls generally given at the Casin; but the young officers were too good natured to resist entreaty, therefore gave away their tickets without much discrimination.

The Smyrniots themselves, aware of the gastronomic powers of their townspeople, cautioned the Frenchmen, that, unless some restrictions were placed on the indiscriminate access to the provisions, that they would all be demolished in the first hour. Profiting by this hint, the officers, by means of their sails, converted the grand terrace of the Casin into a sort of immense tent, and there all the good things were arranged, with permission given to the ladies (as being judged the least cormorants of the two) to enter at will as soon and whenever they pleased, but that the men should not have entrance until the ladies should have had ample time to take as much refreshment as they might desire.

To enforce this regulation, a sentinel was placed at the door which led to the grand awning under which the collation was spread: one of their marines, a fine fierce looking fellow was selected, to protect this pass, and could he have maintained

it inviolable, he would have been entitled to more honour and glory, than ever has been bestowed on Leonidas, for his celebrated defence of the pass of Thermopylæ. The bravest of the brave must at last yield to numbers; the most doughty hero must fall before a host; so it was with the luckless sentinel: his post was forced; he was disgraced, and was punished, in order to maintain the honour and character of the French nation; and the Rubicon once passed by the ravenous guests, like wolves, they pounced on their prey, and many a turkey would have been speedily demolished, had not the officers rallied, and by a sudden charge drove back the invaders, who attempted a counter-charge, which failed; and two sentinels being stationed to guard the post in dispute, well supported by several of the aspirants (that is, French midshipmen), and one or two lieutenants, no farther incursions succeeded, although many were attempted; but I found that near this aforesaid door was the most interesting spot in the room, from the constant struggles, or discussions that were going forward. One gentleman, of colossal height and size, and whose very nose, one might imagine, would have knocked

down a moderate sized man, remonstrated bitterly against the regulation adopted, of only admitting ladies, without their husbands or brothers, saying that his sisters were then in the tent, where he and all the gentlemen were forbidden to enter, except indeed the French officers themselves, and how could he tell what might be their conduct towards the ladies, when they had no protectors, and that there was no check to any familiarities that might be offered them; at the same time insisting upon being allowed to enter, and making a desperate push forward, on being refused; but receiving a repulse from the arm of a French lieutenant, he was obliged to relinquish his object, informing his repeller, that on the morrow he should expect satisfaction. "Sir," said the officer, "the night is bright moonlight; we can arrange an affair of this nature immediately, if you will retire with me." This the other declined, and had business which demanded his presence at Odessa, and caused him to quit Smyrna at five o'clock the next morning, leaving the French officer to seek him in vain.

I seldom witnessed a more animated scene, than when a man first entered with a tray of ices,

wines, and other refreshments: a simultaneous rush was made at him, from all parts, which defeated its own object, as they pressed so suddenly upon him, that the poor fellow lost his equilibrium, and let fall all the nice things that he was carrying. Numerous were the gowns which were spoiled; I knew one lady who had a beautiful rose coloured silk dress totally ruined. After I had retired, I understood the greatest clamour and confusion took place at the throwing open the door, that gave ingress to the refreshments: the numbers who pressed for entrance so choked up the doorway that there they stuck, for some minutes, neither able to advance nor retreat; but, once well in, the work was just what Prince Eugene declared a battle should be, short, sharp, and decisive. Bones alone remained to attest the havoc that had been committed, and numbers went grumbling away, dissatisfied, particularly those who had gone without their dinner, calculating on the slaughter they should commit, when they heard of the sixty turkeys, &c.

Whilst dancing and scrambling went on in some of the rooms, gaming continued with all the intense anxiety that cupidity could excite in the

others, and, although, to a frequenter of Crockford's, it would only be called child's play, yet it was to a most extravagant degree for Smyrna, as I have known a person win to the amount of 370*l.* in an evening; and when it is considered that not one of the players possessed an income amounting to a thousand a year, it must be admitted how criminal is such a pursuit for men who have large families, and such limited funds.

As this occupation goes on at the Casin every night, Sundays not excepted, and there are persons who have no other means of obtaining their livelihood, but whist and ecarté, they become great adepts at it, preserve a respectable appearance, and have never been suspected of having played otherwise than fairly. They usually play until past midnight; but on those nights when there are balls, they continue playing until ten or eleven o'clock the next morning. But the scenes which take place on account of mistakes, which are constantly arising, regarding the division of the money, are sometimes highly amusing. Persons who have won, have often found, if they did not take up their money pretty quickly, that there was none left on the table. It generally happened

that when two persons were seated to play at ecarté, that there would be eight or ten betters on each side, and every one should deposit their stake on the table, but they do not all do so; hence, I imagine, arise the errors that have so often proved the source of discord, whilst persons who have been accustomed to witness these deficiencies, naturally, as soon as they find they have won, catch at the money, fearing lest there should be none left; and, all eager to help themselves, a sort of snatching match takes place, and the modest stranger, who forbears to display so rude a greediness for the money, is mostly the individual who loses; he quietly waiting until the first pressure is over, and then when he seeks his own, finds nothing left.

Beside the Frank Casin, the one I have hitherto described, there is another, entitled the Greek Casin, wherein gambling is carried to a much greater pitch, and where the faro table is established. On those nights when balls are given, the ladies then enter with great avidity into the game, and often have I seen them weeping over their losses. There are many Europeans who are members of the Greek as well as the Frank Casin,

although the Greeks are not admitted to the latter establishment, any more than the Armenians, Turks, Jews, &c., as it would be considered a compromise of their dignity, to suffer any one to belong to the Frank Casin, who was not a European, an exception being admissible in favour of the United States.

The Greeks had long made every possible effort to obtain admission to the Frank Casin, until it was compared to the Catholic question, always petitioning, always rejected, until, at last, finding no chance of emancipation, they established a Casin of their own.

Nothing can be more absurd than that exclusiveness on the part of the Franks, merely because a man is of a certain nation; and, as a proof of their false judgment in that respect, it has frequently happened that a young Greek or Armenian has gone to London and Paris, and has been received in the first society, and his knowledge and information has been appreciated. I know instances myself of those whose company has been courted in the most refined capitals, and yet could never get admitted in what is styled the first circles in Smyrna. This is a subject that has

frequently astonished strangers, nor can they understand the explanation that is given in reply. A foreigner, perhaps, will meet with a well-informed man, and afterwards find that he is one of the excluded, and will naturally ask why. "What!" the Frank will say, "admit a man, who only a few years since wore a calpac and long robes," being a costume worn by many in the East, and much adopted by the native brokers, who are employed by the merchants. The Smyrniots are, however, at last, somewhat relaxing in the rigour of these prejudices. Just before I quitted Smyrna, some Greeks and Armenians were proposed as members of the Casin, and likely to be admitted; and one grand innovation I witnessed, which was the presence of Hadgi Bey, captain of the police guard, at one of their Casin balls, as also two young Turks of rank; it being the first time that any one was admitted who wore any other than the European costume.

I perhaps have devoted too much time and space to this subject, but it gives a most complete illustration of the customs and ideas of the people in this part of the world; in fact, I know no other means by which I could have given a more exact portrait of the Smyrniots.

Their devotion to play is proverbial, and certainly does not redound to a merchant's credit; and that some there are amongst the members who have no other trade is undeniable; certain individuals having had the candour to acknowledge, that they had no other means of living. The chances which were in their favour, arose from the naval officers and strangers frequenting the Casin, who were induced to take the cards, and if not favoured by an uncommon run of luck, generally left off losers, not having the same skill at ecarté as those who made it their profession.

Some have remarked that life itself is but a game, and that all our endeavours and undertakings are but playing our cards to the best of our abilities. Happiness is the goal at which we would aim; but often we make the mistake, and pursue its shadow instead of the substance.

Amongst other freaks that had been played off in these climes, which excited much interest, was that of an elopement; from which no doubt the parties calculated they should derive numberless hours of bliss, but, as I was only witness to the first few weeks of their having lived together, I cannot state whether, on the score of happiness,

they had won or lost by the game they had played.

At the inn, where I was staying in Smyrna, before I obtained apartments, I met with the hero of this adventure, a Capt. O——, a very fine young man, and of most gentlemanly manners. He had not long arrived from Constantinople, and had run away with a Greek girl from Therapia, a village on the Bosphorus, where she was living in the service of an English merchant, when Capt. O—— saw her, and was much struck with her charms; but to obtain possession of her was not so easy a task, as she was not only kept very closely by the persons with whom she lived, but was under the surveillance of her father, who watched her with a most scrutinizing eye. Capt. O—— had two men in his service, who were ever devoted to their master's wishes; the one was Greek, the other Italian: both had wit enough to discern the captain's admiration for the pretty Abigail, and that nothing could better recommend them to their master's favour than affording him the means of obtaining a prize which they considered he so much coveted. Accordingly, the Greek, who was a downright sturdy fellow, proposed

a plan for carrying off the young damsel, offering his services to knock down all obstructions, whether personal or otherwise; in short, his project was to carry every thing before him, simply by physical strength. The other servant, who was a deep subtle fellow, suggested the more prudent means of effecting the same end, by having recourse to stratagem, which advice was followed; and at a certain hour in the night, a boat was in attendance near the residence of the maiden, into which, after much manœuvring, she was conveyed, where Capt. O—— was ready to receive her, and immediately conducted her to Smyrna. She was decidedly pretty, having an expression of sweetness in her countenance which I have rarely seen. Her complexion was not good, being very dark; she had a fine head of hair, black as jet, which hung in most picturesque ringlets about her neck and shoulders; and one charm she had, which is very rare with the Greeks, and that is a voice remarkable for its exquisite softness of tone. She spoke fluently French, Italian, Turkish and Greek.

CHAPTER XII.

SOCIETY AT SMYRNA—FLATTERY OF STRANGERS—THEIR ADMIRATION EXPECTED—CHURLISHNESS OF THE AUTHOR—SMYRNIOT GENTRY COMPARED TO SOME CLASSES IN LONDON, BUT SOMETHING WORSE—FEMALES MOST NUMEROUS—EVER PANTING FOR HUSBANDS—A DISAPPOINTMENT—AN IMAGINARY CONQUEST—THE SUPPOSED VICTIM—A LADY'S ANNOYING POWERS—A MERCHANT ROUTED—AN ELDERLY MAIDEN—HER EMBELLISHING—ARRIVAL EXTRAORDINARY AT THE CUSTOM-HOUSE—AN ACCIDENT—A FELLOW BOARDER—HIS COLLOQUIAL POWERS—HOAXES THE SMYRNIOTS—HIS CONTEMPT FOR THEM—THAT WHICH CONSTITUTES THE CHARMS OF SOCIETY—ANECDOTE—DISAGREEABLE INTRUDERS—SHARING WITH ONE'S NEIGHBOUR—SUCCESSFUL MANŒUVRE—AN OFFENSIVE ODOUR—HOW TO GET RID OF IT—PERSEVERING AUDACITY—ULTIMATELY TRIUMPHANT—AN ABLE ARGUER—CONSUMMATE ADDRESS—AN ARTFUL DESIGN—ITS VILLANY DEVELOPED—ITS OBJECT FRUSTRATED—MEHEMET ALI—TURKISH WOMEN—TURKISH PORTERS—PERSONAL CHASTISEMENT—GREEK PASSIVENESS—SINGULAR COSTUME—ARMENIAN LADY—HER COSTUME—GAMING PARTIES—MYSTERIOUS MEANS OF GETTING RICH—YOUNG LADIES' INDISPOSITIONS—A PRODIGY—HOPELESS ATTACHMENT—FATAL RESULT—AN UPRIGHT MERCHANT.

A STRANGER cannot have long arrived at Smyrna, before he is assured by its inhabitants that all

foreigners declare that they never were at any place where they found the women so beautiful, and the society so delightful, as at Smyrna. This gives you a tolerable idea of how you will be judged, if you venture to form a different opinion, and in fact, that it can only be laid to your stupidity. Yet, with this terrible denunciation hanging over me, I shall venture to state, that I believe that the high character that the Smyrniots pretend that they have ever received from foreigners, has originally emanated from themselves; but that it may have been echoed by many strangers I have no doubt; as I well remember at one of their Cassin balls, a Liverpool gentleman remarking to me, that he never saw females waltz so awkwardly as they did at Smyrna. Some time after a Miss M., asked him, "If he did not think that the Smyrna ladies waltzed extremely well?" "Splendidly!" was the reply; which was immediately repeated throughout the room in all directions, every young lady appropriating the compliment to herself; and, towards the close of the evening, Miss M. came up to the flatterer, saying, that if he would accompany her, she would introduce him to Miss J. and her mamma,

who were anxious to invite him to a ball they intended giving the following week. I certainly did feel so surprised at my Liverpool friend's giving the young lady an opinion so directly opposite to that which he had just expressed, that I asked him how he could be such a hypocrite. To which he answered, that he had always made it a practice to gratify people's feelings, when he could do so without prejudice to his interest; and, as a little white lie cost him nothing, she was welcome to it. This appeared to me as very calculating, and rather mercantile.

I am very well aware that when persons have received much hospitality in a country, that, if they tell the truth afterwards, and if that truth be not agreeable, then the author is pronounced an ungrateful wretch; the dinner bribes are found to have been thrown away, and he who has received them is almost regarded as a swindler, or as a man who has carried off goods and never paid for them. Of this crime, I trust, I cannot be accused, as most of the houses where I dined, and received any marks of kindness and attention, were either at those of the different consuls, or at those of my countrymen, or of foreigners. Therefore, all

that I can be reproached with by the Smyrniots are some sundry cups of coffee; for which, as I am not inclined to pay for in the coin of flattery, nor, indeed, in any other, I must place the donors on the permanent list of my creditors, and sustain all the stigma that must overwhelm me for so unprincipled a line of conduct.

If my countrymen would wish to know what society in Smyrna is like, I can refer them to some circles at home, which will present them with its picture very fairly, without their having the trouble of proceeding to the Levant.

In London, I should say there are five classes: the lowest of the low, the decent working people, the shopkeepers, a commercial class, and the summit, people of fashion and nobility. They are not, certainly, kept quite intact, each caste having different shades, whereby they occasionally intermingle almost imperceptibly; but that class which is placed between the shopkeeper and the people of fashion is that which assimilates most to the society of Smyrna. Then need I describe it? Be it understood, that when I state the commercial class, I allude to those who are a grade above the counter, which includes a variety of occupa-

tions, who affect a great contempt for the retail dealer, many of them being in what they call the wholesale line; and therefore, as they are very numerous, I shall style them the wholesale class, in which many respectable families are to be met with; *some* of whom are highly educated and intellectual, consisting principally of manufacturers, their agents, some merchants, stock-brokers, brewers, ship-brokers, contractors, higher clerks in public offices, &c. &c., with a mixture of certain lawyers, some medical men, and a few stray parsons, as also a lot of briefless barristers, who are glad to go any where from whence there exists the remotest chance that there may hereafter spring a brief; and these illuminati are generally regarded as the oracles and lights of these brilliant circles. They inhabit an immense district of London, beginning at Bedford-row, take in Red Lion, Queen's, Bloomsbury squares, &c., so proceed west and north, till they arrive at Cavendish-square, and there, with a few exceptions, they stop.

Who is there that has frequented this caste, that has not been satiated with what may be called their little genteel tea parties?—or *soirées*, as affectation will now have it—where perhaps you

have the luck to be stationed with a fal-lal miss on one side, a titivating prig on the other, who says something sweet to miss, and miss replies with something equally cloying; a rubicund, pot-bellied old gentleman, with iron mouth, lays down the law; mamma talks about style and good taste, and knows nothing about either; the *bel esprit* of the family says something empty, and the vacant laugh goes round. The tea over, the different misses of the company, no matter if there be nineteen of them, are all requested to give you a tune on the piano; and as vocal harmony doubles the charm, a few sentimental strains are selected. Perhaps a young lady favours you with one of Moore's Melodies, and as she sighs it out, rolls her eyes tenderly towards the best looking young man in the room, who sympathetically replies with a responsive grin; and if you go from house to house, what do you generally meet with but a slight variation of the usual insipidity.

Something like, but something worse than this, is the society at Smyrna; not having had those advantages of education, which are so exuberant in London: where there are certainly many circles, amongst professional people particularly,

which form some most delightful exceptions to the above remarks, but which are rarely to be met with in Smyrna.

As may be supposed from what I have already stated, the females are the most numerous in almost every house you enter, in this part of Turkey, at least amongst the Frank population; and as their minds are not cultivated, and few of them have been beyond the precincts of Smyrna, their conversation is as confined as their field of action.

When a stranger is introduced to the house, the elders of the family give him their welcome in a few phrases politely expressed, then divide their attentions, as might be expected, with other individuals in the society; whilst the young people form a sort of knot, huddled together, now and then look at the stranger, giggle, and talk Greek, whilst he is left alone in a crowd, unless he happens to be, as they term it, *un bon parti*, and then he is overwhelmed with the notice and smiles of all the single ladies from fourteen to forty. There are a few instances of foreigners in good circumstances having many years since married Smyrna ladies. This has made a lasting impression upon the female population; so that now a ship of war

is never descried in the offing, but immediately some hundred hearts begin to palpitate with hope, particularly as several English naval officers have chosen wives from Smyrna.

One vessel that arrived whilst I was there, brought with it a bitter disappointment, having four or five young ladies from London to augment that stock which had so long hung on hand; and absolutely did monopolise three out of the very small list of beaux which were considered desirable matches.

As the young ladies of Smyrna occupy their thoughts eternally about the possibility of procuring husbands, so are they rather prone to fancy persons are violently smitten with them, when their imaginary conquest is but a chimera of their own brain. I remember a young lady of the fair name of Helen (being unmarried, I believe, in courtesy, I should call her young, though she was about forty), and notwithstanding she was always flattering herself that her darts were penetrating the heart of some susceptible swain, still the bitterness of celibacy was her portion. At last, she was quite in ecstacies, thinking she had made a lucky shot.

A Monsieur D., whom I well knew, and was the last man in the world to be violently struck with the charms of any fair, happened to be looking at Helen as she floated through the mazes of the dance. Perhaps his gaze might have been rivetted upon her for some time, as her dress was rather remarkable, and she skipped about rather friskily for a person of her age, or he might be thinking of something else all the time; but, after remaining in the same position some time, he leaned his arm against a pillar, little dreaming what interpretation would be applied to so unmeaning an action. But Helen had marked him well, and immediately went to several of her female acquaintances, informing them that she had made such an impression on Monsieur D., that he had looked at her till he became so enamoured with her, that the emotion was too powerful for him, and feeling himself fainting, he caught hold of a pillar to prevent his sinking to the ground! Mr. D., at last, himself heard of the extraordinary manner in which the lady interpreted the almost unconscious glance he had bestowed upon her, and was much more amused than flattered at the importance she attached to his regards.

In another instance a like fancy of the *soi-disant* love-inspiring Helen, was attended with much inconvenience to a gentleman under the following circumstances. Immediately opposite to where she lived, a Monsieur B. had his counting-house, and was in the habit, like most of the Frank merchants, of smoking his pipe at his door the greater part of the day; but, happening to cast his eyes up at the windows of Helen, unfortunately the very moment when her person was adorning one of them, she instantly concluded that poor Monsieur B. was smitten with her beyond redemption; and in order to administer all the comfort which she considered his case required, she remained immoveably fixed at the window all day long, and every day.

Monsieur B. soon heard of the effect the lady imagined her charms had operated upon him, and as there was a good deal of quizzing on the subject, he was excessively annoyed, and dare not hold his head up for fear his glance should reach the window where he knew the persevering Helen was stationed, hoping thereby to dissolve the false impression which the lady had conceived of the force of her attractions; but in vain, as she

attributed his downcast looks to his overpowering modesty.

At length Monseur B., tired of keeping his head only within a certain level, and not daring to look up, for fear he should encounter the grey eyes of the formidable Helen, and feed her hopeless flame, resolved upon quitting his counting-house, and absolutely had to remove a large quantity of merchandise, that was stowed in an adjoining warehouse, as he gave up the premises altogether, and took others at a more distant quarter, where he was beyond the annoying effects of the lady's powers, could smoke his pipe at his ease, and move his head in any direction that caprice might dictate.

Whilst the Smyrniot fair inspire my pen, I cannot refrain from relating a little anecdote, which created much amusement. A single lady, who, I suppose, would expect I should call her young, as she was unmarried, although she was not less than seventy, in person tall and gaunt, did all in her power to give as juvenile an appearance to her charms, as art, aided by her abilities, could effect; and as she was a very good judge of the proper proportions of the female figure, she

had sufficient discernment to discover, that nature had not gifted her with that degree of rotundity that was requisite to be in harmony with her superior height. That art and science have often been successfully employed to repair the deficiencies of nature is undeniable, and the lady thought that idea might be applicable to her own case. Accordingly, she sent to Paris for some material to supply a deficiency in that part of her person which she considered was not sufficiently *en bon point*. At length, the substitute for flesh, so much desired, arrived, in the form of pieces of cork, so contrived as to add grace to the shape of the lady's figure, by giving that bulk and roundness required to that part of her person which she considered ought to be the most circular. Now it so happened, that this new species of merchandise was, like all other importations, first conveyed to that inquisitorial and impertinent establishment, the custom-house. In vain the clerks turned over and examined this new article of Parisian manufacture, wondering what it possibly could be, and totally at a loss what duty to put upon it, as they could form no idea of its value. At last they appealed to the merchant to whom the

goods were consigned, and amongst which the machine in question had arrived, who, being the brother of the lady for whom it was destined, and in the secret, when asked what it was, with most laudable candour and simplicity called out, "Oh, that's my sister's rotundity!" No sooner was this explanation given, and understood, than the custom-house officers, with a spirit of gallantry that cannot be too highly praised, immediately let the article pass free of duty.

It is needless to state that this circumstance quickly got wind with the public; and no sooner had the lady shown herself in society, than every eye was bent upon her, anxious to view the effect of the Parisian improvement; and every one admitted that her figure was considerably beautified by the recent addition. She was not always as fortunate as she could wish with her artificial aids, as one evening that I had the pleasure of taking tea in company with her, as she was sipping the refreshing beverage, I heard something rattle in her cup, and perceiving that there was a sort of scramble and confusion displayed by the lady, with a visible change in the formation of her mouth, I soon discovered that she had dropped

her teeth, which occasioned her abrupt retreat with her handkerchief up to her face! Much as I admire the taste and talent she evinced in the adorning of her person, which was, in truth, but making the best of a bad bargain, yet I consider she was very injudicious in one respect, and that was in exposing her bare throat, which had on each side of it a great vein as thick as a two-penny cord; and I would advise all old ladies who are not fat to wear some sort of ruff, or frill, up to their chin, to hide their wizened, scraggy necks.

A Swiss merchant, who boarded in the same house with me, amused me much by the description he gave me of Smyrna society, soon after my arrival. Having been a resident in the place for ten years, he knew his subject; and although it was given in bitterness, there was much of truth in the picture. He was a man who had travelled far, and seen much of the world: naturally shrewd and penetrating, his remarks on human nature, and his recital of his travels, were both entertaining and instructive; of this he was conscious, as in Europe he had ever found his conversation appreciated, and his society courted; but these qualities were lost upon the people of Smyrna,

where the men only care to converse upon business, and the women had not the slightest interest as to what passed in other countries. Smyrna was all the world to them; therefore, any conversation that had not for its subject the scandal and gossip of the place, was thrown away upon them; so that B's superior colloquial powers, richly stored with travel and anecdote, were exerted in vain: amongst the whole host of young damsels that infested the parties of Smyrna, he could not obtain a listener. B., however, maliciously gratified himself by making fools of them, and, by dealing in the extreme marvellous, sometimes succeeded in exciting their attention and their credulity.

One instance of this I remember, which somewhat amused me. B. had an immense dog, whom he had taught, at a signal given, to fetch a footstool for a lady, or to pick up a handkerchief, &c. This did really attract the notice of the ladies of Smyrna; and when B. assured them, that all the dogs did so in Europe, they replied that indeed then, in Europe, the dogs were much more polite than the gentlemen amongst them; and so completely did this idea pass current with them, that

I heard several of them allude to the politeness of our dogs, and could not find it in my heart to spoil B's joke, by convincing them to the contrary.

Few men had acquired the art of complimenting a female in an indirect and delicate manner, to such a perfection as himself; but unless you told a Smyrniot lady in direct terms, that she was a beautiful creature, she could not understand you: therefore, were all his elegantly-turned phrases wasted, as though addressed to the desert air; and being naturally disposed to be very gallant to the ladies, he felt their indifference towards him the more bitterly. The fact was, he was not young, and he was not rich; he therefore had the mortification of seeing his juniors preferred, many of whom had scarcely wit enough to string a few words together, sufficient to express an idea, if ever they had one.

It may easily be supposed that B. was always lamenting that fate, and his affairs, should have consigned him to such a place as Smyrna, to spend the rest of his days. He, like many others, could not resist going into society, and would execrate it afterwards. How few there are who

can be convinced how much more real happiness there is to be procured from books, at your own fire-side, than from the general state of society, as found even in capitals of the most civilised countries. And although I may be considered as having been severe on the parties, of what I call the wholesale class, yet, are the *soirées* of fashion much superior? Is it not merely a higher class of insipidity? I find almost every one agree with me, in confessing that they find no pleasure in those immense parties; yet they conceive they must go and punish themselves, because they have not the resolution to refuse.

When a few literary or scientific characters, or artists, or, in fact, well informed persons, meet together in an unceremonious manner, and presume not upon their information, then indeed society becomes an intellectual treat; and how often have I known such delightful re-unions entirely spoiled by being joined by some empty men of rank, or over-rich booby, who, ever having a tendency to overbear, affect a superiority over that talent, which has still to strive against the chilling current of adversity, until their arrogance has assumed so insulting a tone, that the humble struggler, be-

coming wounded and disgusted, quits the circle, and the once social meeting terminates in being broken up.

But to return to Smyrna and Monsieur B. I never met with a man who had so much ingenuity in ever devising some scheme to extricate himself from a dilemma into which luckless chances may have thrown him; although I cannot say he always displayed the strictest delicacy in the means to which he resorted to deliver himself from trouble. Having for some time been wandering about Syria, he arrived at a port where he found a French ship of war bound for the same destination as himself, and having an introduction to the officers, he gladly accepted a passage which was offered to him.

Persons who have not been accustomed to travelling in very warm climates, are not aware of the extreme difficulty, even the cleanest man has, in preserving himself clear of vermin. No one would have been more likely to take the requisite precautions than B.; but the strictest vigilance will not always avail. Having no other more convenient place, a bed was arranged for him on the cabin floor, as also one for a Capuchin monk.

B. was very restless during the night, and as soon as daylight appeared the next morning, discovered, to his extreme chagrin, that he was inhabited by certain little drab-coloured insects, which, I dare say, nine-tenths of my readers never saw, and I hope they never may. He was tremendously annoyed at the discovery. His first thoughts were "What will the officers think of me, if any of these little wretches are found on the bed linen, or seen on my clothes, so as to reveal the state that I am now in." The Capuchin, meantime, lay snoring on the other bed, when the thought struck him that Capuchins always have the credit of being encumbered by those intruders; hence, he very logically inferred, that having the stigma hanging over one for possessing any bad quality, is just as bad, as far as regards our estimation in society, as if we really had the fault ascribed to us. This reasoning appeared to him incontrovertible; and he determined to act upon it forthwith. He therefore selected seven of the little offending creatures, and put them on the Capuchin: he then rang the bell; and when the servant appointed to attend on B. came, he observed that he had rested rather badly since midnight, and had been much tor-

mented; hoped he had not received anything unpleasant from his neighbour, casting an eye towards the Capuchin, who still slept on; and B. continued, "These Capuchins seldom travel alone, as they generally contrive to carry a good deal of company about them." These hints set the servant upon examining the Capuchin's bedding, in which B. assisted by lifting up his head, and stretching out his neck, descried the seven little unconscious creatures, which he had just lent to the Capuchin, saying to the servant very innocently, "What are those things that I see, moving about there?" When the servant, espying them also, exclaimed with a "Sacredi! well I declare, Monsieur, if he is not swarming; for here are six or seven together; and who knows how many may have crept upon you! Our gentlemen will never forgive themselves for having placed you in so unpleasant a position!" and off he ran to tell the officers, who descended with a thousand apologies, for their indiscretion in having subjected him to the disgusting effects of so filthy a neighbour, promising him, at the same time, that for the future the Capuchin should be removed to another part of the ship; whilst B. endeavoured to console them,

as they were quite *au desespoir* for the *desagrément* that had happened. Warm bath and every convenience being provided, B. was enabled to purify himself, and ordering all his clothes that he had worn throughout his Syrian journey, to be thrown overboard, he had no farther apprehensions of the re-appearance of his late tormentors, and got through the affair with éclat; whilst the poor Capuchin, totally unconscious of what had transpired, was kept aloof, without being one instant allowed to suspect the cause.

Another instance occurred, wherein B. relieved himself of an inconvenience in the most effective manner, but which required his consummate audacity to carry him through the affair in triumph, and which he effected with unblushing assurance. He had taken his passage in a small merchant vessel; and when he retired to his berth, was kept awake all night by the terrible odour proceeding from some jars of oil, which were placed immediately under his den. The next morning he complained to the captain, that he had not been able to sleep on account of the stench from the oil; whereupon the captain declared that there was none in the jars alluded to, making this assevera-

tion in the presence of his mate and another passenger.

As soon as B. was left alone with the said jars, he set about examining them, and found them brim full of oil; he therefore, without the least ceremony, emptied them out of the cabin-window into the sea, and slept undisturbed for the rest of the voyage; but when they arrived at their destined port, and the captain began to unfreight his ship, the jars were found to be empty; and immediately suspicion fell upon B., the captain at once accusing him of it. B. replied by a question, "If there was no oil in them, as you solemnly declared there was not, how could I have thrown any oil away?" "They were as full as they could hold," said the captain, "and you know very well that I only said there was none just to quiet you!" "Indeed!" returned B., "I cannot suppose you were capable of telling me such an infamous falsehood!" "Ah!" said the captain, "that's all very well your saying that now, but that's nothing to the purpose; you have thrown away my oil, and you must pay me for it!" Again B. answered by repeating the same question to every charge that the captain could make, who, finding he could get

no more out of him than a repetition of the same tormenting question, at length summoned B. before a magistrate, who heard the charge, and also the defence; the captain not denying that he had stated that there was no oil, but vowing that he only said so to quiet the gentleman. "Then," said B., "you have now impeached your own evidence, as any proved liar can never be legally received as a witness in any court, in any country, and that you are such, you yourself have proved by your own confession. The magistrate could do no otherwise than confirm B.'s assertion. The captain hesitated a few minutes, and then said, "But if my evidence won't do, I can bring forward my sailors as witnesses that they were full of oil when they were placed on board." "That can avail you nothing," rejoined B.; "what there might have been at one period in the jars is another question, you having subsequently declared there was none: any person might have thrown it away after it came on board; perhaps you yourself, more likely than any, as it was so offensive in the cabin; reserving to yourself the intention of charging me with so doing, and making me pay for it at your own price!" At length the magis-

trate, to cut the matter short, demanded of the captain, "What evidence have you that this gentleman threw away your oil?" "Because I'm sure he did, as the scent prevented his sleeping," replied the captain. "But," said the magistrate, "your conjectures, as it amounts merely to that, are not evidence; and as you have no witnesses, I must dismiss the case;" and B., as usual, came off with flying colours.

I have seldom met with a man who had more of that presence of mind which can turn to advantage the circumstances of the moment so well as B.; hence in argument he had always that command of ideas as well as words, that although he might have the wrong side of the question, he could mostly give the subject that turn which would make it appear that he had floored his adversary; so that there were but few persons who would attempt to argue with him, particularly at Smyrna, where there were not many individuals who could pretend to any very strong argumentative powers.

One evening I set out at the same time as B., who, according to the custom of the place, had a lantern with him, which was lighted, although

not dark, to save him the trouble of stopping to get it kindled in the street. We had not gone far before we came to a group of persons, one of whom called out, "Look at that chap! he has a lantern to light the sun!" B. stopped instantly opposite the man, and holding his lantern up to his face said, "Ah! I was looking for a fool!" and blew it out. The fellow looked confused, and his companions burst out a laughing; and B., as usual, turned into ridicule his assailant.

But the circumstances which tried his address the most happened at Cairo, which had become quite a refuge for outlaws, scamps, and runaways, from different countries in Europe, and at the hotel where B. was staying there was a complete nest of them, who soon marked him for their prey; but they had fixed on a wrong subject, and whatever were the manœuvres practised by them on B., he always found the means of out-manœuvring them. At length, after a residence of many months, constantly employed in endeavours to baffle the various attempts made upon his purse and property, he prepared to depart, congratulating himself upon having evaded all the arts which had been played upon him, to draw him into their

snares, and that he had still preserved such terms with them as to avoid coming to open rupture; but, just as he was setting off, several of these crafty adventurers came to him, begging he would take charge of a small box of jewels, which they stated to be of great value, and which was sealed up with every possible precaution, to be delivered at a certain place indicated at Alexandria; but B. was too keen to undertake the care of any packet, received from such hands, therefore declined, stating that he really was such a careless fellow that he was the worst in the world to take charge of anything of value; adding that if he himself had been worth preserving, he should have been lost long ago, and endeavoured to laugh it off in that manner. But they were not so easily to be put off from their object, and pressed him by every entreaty that their ideas could suggest; but the more they pressed, the more determined was B. to have nothing to do with their packet, and at last got clear of Cairo, and of their importunities. B., however, had not been above a few days at Alexandria, before he heard of a Dutch gentleman having been accused of abstracting some jewels from a packet given

into his charge at Cairo. B. needed no further information to convince him that this was the identical packet which his Cairo acquaintances had been so anxious to consign to his care, and instantly repaired to the spot, where he understood the accused was undergoing an examination, and whom he found extremely agitated, labouring as he was under the charge of theft, and in a country where he was a total stranger. His accusers were present, and, as the reader may imagine, in them, B. recognised the very men who had destined him for their victim. They appeared at first somewhat daunted at the sight of B., but soon recovered their audacity.

The accusation against the stranger stated, that he had received a box of jewels at Cairo sealed up, containing a certain number of jewels, of which some had been abstracted, and the box when delivered was unsealed; consequently it was inferred that he had opened it. The unfortunate gentleman could but declare his innocence, but had only his own word to pledge against those of his three accusers. B. then explained the circumstance of the box having been so earnestly pressed upon him, and his reasons for declining to receive

it, and requesting to examine the box, proved that the wax was of that ductile description that would, if the box were contained in any trunk or portmanteau exposed to the sun, or in a pocket, if liable to any friction, melt merely from the heat of the climate; which wax, no doubt, had been purposely selected by them to forward their views; at the same time observing, that, as they had not exacted any acknowledgment from the gentleman, specifying the contents they had consigned to him, they could have no legal claim for what they might think proper to declare was missing. "And now, gentlemen, I shall address you one question," said B., turning to the accusers; "as it appears that you were yourselves coming to Alexandria, and, I have ascertained, arrived an hour or two before the defendant, why should you have wished another to take charge of any thing so valuable, instead of yourselves being the bearers?" This question baffled them for a moment; but one who had the most presence of mind said that business necessitated their taking another route, which was far more dangerous than that pursued by the gentleman to whom they consigned the packet.

The authorities were puzzled; but finding that

the Dutchman was a person well accredited to his consul, and highly recommended to several merchants of respectability, they considered that his word ought to have more weight than those of three individuals who were outcasts from their country, not acknowledged by the consuls of their nation, nor countenanced by any persons of character or credit in Cairo or Alexandria: therefore was the case dismissed; at the same time the accusers were recommended, another time, when they trusted their property to strangers, to make at the time a declaration of the nature and value of the goods they delivered, and to exact an acknowledgment accordingly.

The plaintiffs of course were indignant at the decision, but their murmurs were unavailing; and Mehemet Ali was so disgusted at last with the various swindling tricks, practised by the numerous adventurers that flocked to Egypt, that ultimately he would not suffer any foreigners to enter the country, who professed not some calling, or had letters of credit on some house, whereby there might appear a visible means of keeping them from want, without their being obliged to have recourse either to cheating or begging; and when

they have arrived totally destitute, and without the intention of following any trade or profession, Mehemet has sent them back whence they came.

But it is time I should return to Smyrna, from whence I have been led far away by my last digression. The manner of living at Smyrna amongst the Frank inhabitants is extremely regular: they breakfast generally between eight and nine, and dine at one, after which (except in the winter), every one lies down for about a couple of hours, which mostly happens between two and five, during which period the counting-houses are all closed, and nothing living is to be seen but dogs and Englishmen (as the saying runs throughout the shores of the Mediterranean). At eight they usually take tea or supper, or both; and afterwards the ladies meet at each other's houses, and the gentlemen go to the Casin, where they generally remain until midnight.

With the Franks and the Turks not the slightest association takes place, as, what European can conform to customs which neither admit of a table nor a chair? whilst you must be compelled to eat with your fingers, as knives or forks

are never used by them, and I am certain that there are many Frank merchants, who have been born in Smyrna, and lived there all their lives, who have not the least idea of the habitual customs and manner of living of a Turkish family, nor perhaps ever even entered their houses. In the various transactions between the Frank and Turk, they may sometimes smoke a pipe or drink a cup of coffee together; but *there* ends any degree of association that they ever have with each other.

The Turkish women at Smyrna entirely cover their faces with their veils; that part which is before the eyes being of black crape, projecting an inch or two from the face, and sustained by a wire, they certainly are most dismal looking objects; the veil they wear covering almost the whole of the person, their figures have a most awkward inexpressive looking appearance,—one unseemly mass, as it were, which is moved forward by a clumsy looking pair of yellow feet and legs, that being the colour adopted by Mahomet, and that they pride themselves on having the privilege to wear.

The Turkish porters at Smyrna are a most

remarkable race. They mostly come from a place called Konieh, a town of Anatolia. They are many of them absolutely gigantic. I never saw such immense chests and shoulders as these men have; in fact, their arms and legs are in the same proportion. They often appeared to me like colossal satyrs. Their shirts are always open at the breast, displaying a mass of hair almost like the fur of some animal. They are a remarkably quiet, civil, inoffensive people. I have seen sometimes a little whippersnapper of a merchant's clerk strike these enormous fellows, without their having the least idea of resenting it, not from any want of courage, conscious as they are of their superior strength; but from a sort of feeling that would cause them to imagine they were wrong, and that they merited correction, and would have no more thought of resistance than would the schoolboy towards his master.

I know not anything more revolting to one's feelings than to see a man receive passively a blow from another; for my own part, I feel indignant against both the striker and he that is struck. I like not to see human nature so degraded: there is a sort of sympathy in us for our

species, so that we have some feeling for the very lowest being upon the earth. This may at once be proved by the sensation we feel, if we view any one in a very perilous situation, on the verge of a precipice, or on the edge of the parapet wall of an extremely high building; and to see any one fall from an immense height, the shock is as painful to the beholder, perhaps, in some instances, as to he that falls. It was from this sort of sympathy, I imagine, that occasioned me to feel so hurt, when I saw one man with impunity strike another.

I remember seeing a Turk give a Greek three blows with the handle of a hatchet. I was at some distance, or I should have interfered; but the manner in which the Greek received the chastisement was impressive. He turned his head away, put his hand over his eyes, but spoke not; and though I despised and pitied the latter, I felt the utmost indignation against the Turk.

Facing my windows at Napoli they were building some barracks: the workmen were all Greek; one amongst them I observed that was particularly irritable; I had seen him several times throw stones, when in a passion, at his fellow labourers,

yet he submitted as quietly as possible to a few strokes of the cane from a Bavarian serjeant.

I was informed by an eye-witness that Captain Hastings, who commanded, with great credit to himself, a steamer, in the service of Greece, thrashed his lieutenant, who never attempted the slightest resistance: it is needless to say he was Greek; and the captain, feeling that he had acted wrongly, instantly offered his lieutenant satisfaction; but the latter was content with what he had already received, yet he had given ample proofs that he was a man of courage.

The Smyrna porters are generally, from their birth, destined for the humble calling which they follow; in fact, as soon as they are born, their mothers pray to God and Mahomet, that they may become good porters, and as soon as they have sufficient strength, they are sent to Smyrna, where they toil for the greater part of their lives. They then contrive to make sufficient to buy a little bit of land in the neighbourhood of Konieh, their native place, to which they retire; and in cultivating their ground, consider that they have a comfortable retreat. But sometimes the poor fellows perish at Smyrna, not unfrequently during the Ramazan,

which enjoins them to abstain from tasting anything whatever between sunrise and sunset; and when this fast occurs in the heat of the summer, the perspiration becomes so excessive, promoted by their Herculean labour, that they sometimes fall a sacrifice to intense thirst. The burthens they carry are immense: the English consul assured me that they usually average from between four hundred to seven, and, in some instances, even reach eight. With these tremendous loads they walk with their backs quite horizontal, and their heads and necks sticking out like those of a Turkey.

There are a number of men that wear a comical sort of head-dress, which is called a calpack, and is puffed out to the dimensions, almost, of a kettle-drum, and has a most curious effect. I had a great curiosity to know if these immense caps were hollow, or, if not, what was inside of them. I tried to knock my head against one in passing, as if by accident, hoping to push one off, and then with an apology to have an excuse for picking it up, and peeping within; but I could not succeed, and hit upon another scheme. I took off my hat, and made a very low bow to several of the wearers; but that did not answer, as they only

made me in return a very respectful bend of the head and body. However, I had afterwards an opportunity of gratifying my curiosity, and can indulge that of my readers, if they have any on the subject, by assuring them, that these heavy, outrageous looking head-dresses were light as possible, having nothing within them but vacancy. Many of the brokers and persons employed by the merchants wear this costume, with long flowing robes, the outer being quite loose, whilst those worn close to the body, and which are mostly striped, are fastened round the waist. But many of the more aspiring of the brokers are now assuming the European garb, and are frequently more rich than their employers. Each merchant has his broker, and often, when the former becomes bankrupt, the latter has feathered his nest; he having no risk, being paid his commission, whether his employer ever obtains payment for the commodity supplied or not.

I once went with B., the Swiss merchant, to whom I have before alluded, to dine at his broker's, who was an Armenian. His reception of us savoured much of the ancient hospitality: a band of music struck up on our entrance, and continued playing

during the whole time we were there. I observed a singular peculiarity on the part of the Armenian females, whenever they drank, they turned their heads aside. The mistress of the house was truly beautiful; the expression was so sweet, kind, and modest, that a physiognomist must have loved her for the good feelings which her countenance proclaimed. Her skin was brilliantly white; of colour she had not much, but what there was, rivalled, in softness and beauty, the tender tint of the rose-leaf. Her eyes were dark, but so veiled by her black silken eyelashes, that they had not that hard, harsh character, too often the case with those coal-jet eyes. The nose and forehead approached the Grecian; the mouth, perhaps, somewhat larger than that class of beauty would admit, and, on that account, perchance, might have more expression: the form of the face was also rounder than perfection would allow. I was told she had upon her a thousand pounds of jewels, which did not deform her so much as might have been expected. I frequently think women make a great mistake in imagining that jewels heighten their charms: there may be this policy certainly in an ugly person wearing them, that the eye, attracted by

the brilliancy of the jewels, may forget to look at the wearer.

But to return to my fair Armenian.—She wore a small green velvet jacket, richly embroidered with gold, tight in the sleeves to the wrist, where they opened, and drooping, displayed immense bracelets, formed of plates of gold; a sort of silk, light as gossamer, or sometimes of Brussels lace, very ample, hung from the end of the sleeve, having a picturesque effect. The jacket is open in front, the bosom being covered with a transparent silk, which is not bright (I believe they call it washing silk); it has a yellowish tint, but is too thin to be strictly delicate, and is worn by all the Greeks, as well as many of the Armenians. The waist was quite short; and on her head she wore a kind of turban, the folds of which were held together by a diamond aigrette; a chain of the same stones hung round the neck, at the end of which was a heart of emerald, which was placed on the right breast.

After dinner, she accompanied her husband in a dance of the country, in which they held the opposite corners of a handkerchief; the man always having the air of commanding, and the wife of obedience; as she danced she kept her eyes always

fixed on the ground. The fare, as might have been expected, was sumptuous and solid, with a profusion of different wines. The party consisted of about twenty, principally composed of merchants, who were friends of B.

The morals of the European society at Smyrna are not of the purest description. I cannot help thinking that the constant habit of play, even in an honourable manner, has a demoralising effect, where the stake is higher than it ought to be, according to the player's means. I have known a person at Borja, or Bournabat, give a dinner, and invite, perhaps, a dozen persons, gentlemen only. The declared purpose is only for gaming, or, as they would term it, playing together. What is the principal hope of the host but to pillage his guests? and that of the guests is to pillage their host, or each other. They ride off together, all in good humour, laughing and chatting cheer the ride there; they arrive at their destination, and mirth reigns throughout the dinner, even perhaps until the tea is over; then all the intense anxiety of business begins, and ecarté sways in its full force, and continues throughout the whole night. The next morning, about nine or ten o'clock, they

prepare to return; but the ride back is a very different thing: the plundered is serious and thoughtful, however he may endeavour to appear otherwise; the plunderer is gay, nor seeks to dissimulate. But must not the feeling of harmony and cordiality to each other be in some degree affected, in spite of attempts to seem the reverse? The plundered cannot have a very grateful feeling towards the plunderer, whilst his only consolation is in the hope of an opportunity of taking his revenge.

Bankruptcy is very frequent in Smyrna, considering the number of the merchants; more so in proportion than in any other place I ever visited. But the most remarkable is, that they may be known to begin upon nothing but credit, follow business a few years, become a bankrupt, get their affairs settled, and then live independent, without following any business whatever. When you ask the explanation of this, "Oh, because he is a rascal!" is the reply. But, rascal as he may be, all his neighbours will visit him." Therefore are you subject to meet with beings such as these in frequenting any of the society of Smyrna; and some there are who are amongst the wealthiest, and give

the most stylish parties, when the means by which they obtained their riches are the most equivocal. Amongst these examples was an individual, who, having no property whatever, was received as a clerk to a rich merchant; and after a year or two he was taken into partnership. Very shortly after this, he became possessed of the entire concern by the death of his patron, who left an immense property, which agents of his widow and his relations came to claim; but no books, no accounts, were to be found. Legal proceedings were threatened, and defied by the surviving partner, who, at last, compromised the affair by allowing the widow something per annum, and giving a certain sum to the relations.

Thus the pennyless clerk, who, a few years before, no one noticed, suddenly became possessed of an immense property, and no longer bothered himself with business; but, as one of the richest, became one of the most important, men in Smyrna: and several of the first merchants have I heard declare, that they had the worst opinion of the means by which he procured his wealth; yet would they pay him the highest respect; accept, with glee, his invitations; pro-

pose his health, and accompany it with a panegyric on his virtues. Oh! reign of humbug! to what corner of the earth must one flee to get out of its dominions?

The fair sex are not very far behind the gentlemen in this laxity of morals. Young ladies are now and then indisposed, and recommended change of air and scene. The counsel is followed; they absent themselves a few months; return purified, and resume their place in the Smyrna circles. Some there are who have taken a little trip to Europe, to see France, Italy, or some other pretty country, and always come back perfectly cured. Amongst those young ladies who required a little rustication for the benefit of her health, was one to whom a French gentleman was paying his addresses; but some ill-natured zephyr whispered in his ear the nature of his mistress's indisposition. Whereupon he repaired to her mamma, and, after some preliminary remarks, gave her to understand that he wished to decline any further communication with her daughter. The mother insisted upon an explanation; and, on being pressed, at last he frankly avowed that he had discovered that the fair but frail one had produced an offspring!

to which the mother replied, "Oh, yes; but I assure you, Sir, it was such a little bit of a thing (un piccolo piccolo, the conversation being in Italian), that it was not worth mentioning." But the Frenchman could not be induced to view the subject in so indulgent a light.

As may be imagined, after the ladies get married, they need no little country excursions; but, inasmuch as they are kindly disposed to look with an indulgent eye upon the juvenile indiscretions of their juniors, so do they appear to think it might be construed into a reproach to them, if they were very strict and rigid as wives: hence, they hold themselves in no way bound for ever to pursue the path of dull, unjoyous constancy; and sometimes diverge from it with the connivance of their husbands, if they take the road to wealth, but certainly more often against their wills, and oftenest against their knowledge.

That there are many exceptions to the above remarks cannot be denied; and on such exceptions it is pleasure to dwell. Therefore shall I state the case of a young lady, whose extraordinary genius and intellect would have rendered her the admiration of the most refined circles of

any civilized capital. Her natural abilities for music were of so high a cast, that had I heard her without seeing her, I could have supposed I was hearing a Kalkbrenner or a Moschelles. I never yet heard an amateur player unite so much brilliancy of touch with such force and expression, and, where required, a rapidity of execution with a distinctness that I have seldom known surpassed; and this acquired in Smyrna, where no advantages are to be obtained. Her principal instructress being her mother, who certainly had an elegance of taste not to be found in any of the masters in that part of the country. Nor were the talents of this young phenomenon confined to music; she equally excelling in the graphic art: her paintings, whether in oil or water colours, displaying a breadth and freedom, ever the heralds of real genius; not the slightest sketch ever came from her pencil in which her mind was not conspicuous: and her conversation was as intellectual as might be expected from a being who possessed such strong natural powers.

But the happiness of this interesting girl was early blighted. A young artist of superior talent

arrived at Smyrna: this opportunity was eagerly embraced by her parents for perfecting the studies of their daughter in portrait painting; and, most imprudently, she was left alone with the artist for hours together; whilst he was one of those young men the most likely to captivate a girl who had only been accustomed to the society of merchants or their clerks, and a few officers, whose strongest recommendation consisted in their epaulettes. Her master was not only talented as a painter, but possessed such mental endowments as rendered his society most desirable to a female who was as intellectual as himself; and, as might be expected, the result was a most passionate attachment which arose between them. They knew too well the iron disposition of the father ever to nourish any hope of his consent; as, although the young man was in circumstances which rendered him independent of his profession, yet a consul, a merchant, or an officer of rank, was sought by the ambition of her parent; whilst the mother, as amiable as the daughter, would rather only have studied that which would have been conducive to her child's happiness.

The lessons being finished, the master and his pupil could no longer find any pretexts which could afford them the enjoyment of each other's society, and he departed for Constantinople; but not until they had exchanged vows of constancy, and means were arranged for a correspondence, ever bearing in mind a plan which they had devised, which was inseparably to unite them. One of their contrivances for conveying a letter was at the back of a portrait of her god-daughter,—the mother of the child being in their confidence; but her husband was to be the bearer, and some circumstance raising his suspicions, he discovered the letter, and immediately delivered it to the father of the young lady, who, highly indignant, instantly wrote a letter so goading and insulting to the young artist, that the double wound of receiving an epistle from the father, expressive of the utmost contempt and abuse that language could convey, and, at the same time, the destruction of all his hopes of happiness, produced an immediate illness. A more genial air than that of Constantinople, where the winter is detestable, was prescribed, and Malta was fixed on, where he had relations and friends;

but he was scarcely restored to them, as he died in quarantine. I did not know him, but was acquainted with a person who was also in quarantine at the same time, and who assured me that his lost mistress was the only subject on which he could talk or think; and, in his last moments, he ejaculated her name.

She, as might be imagined, was for a long period plunged into a deep and settled grief, from which she had not entirely recovered when I knew her. She still entered into society, with a revulsive feeling; and has often declared, that if it were to meet any strangers, she has been ready to sink on entering the room. This arose, in a great degree, from her natural timidity, which had been increased by the unfortunate circumstances which had clouded her youth, and broken the natural energies of her mind. If asked to play before persons she was not familiar with, her performance was no better than that of a child beginning to learn music; and, though possessing conversational powers of the highest class, yet, in company she was totally silent. Yet I cannot, in justice, quit the subject without stating, however severe

was her father in this instance, yet in others he had shown himself a man of feeling; and his character for honour and integrity, as a merchant, stood, perhaps, the highest of any man in Smyrna.

END OF VOL. I.

LONDON:
GILBERT & RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

00083374

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 06 February, 2016